

## “Satan Desires to Have You”

**Text:** Luke 22:31

### **Introduction:**

- ➔ Our Lord tells the Apostle Peter that Satan desires to sift Peter as wheat.
- ➔ Have things changed much since then?
- ➔ I believe not.
- ➔ Notice what the same Apostle Peter writes to believers.
  - I believe that Peter is writing this from experience.
  - **See 1 Peter 5:8.**
- ➔ I believe that the sifting that the Lord was talking about to Peter was temptations.
- ➔ Through temptations Satan would see whether Peter was really wheat or just a bunch of chaff.
- ➔ In other words, Satan was going to see what Peter was made out of.
  - How strong his belief and trust in the Lord really was.
- ➔ This morning using Peter as our example we want to see how Satan tries to sift us.

### **I. SELF-CONFIDENCE (Matt. 26:33)**

- ➔ God tells us that "**Pride goeth before destruction.**" (**Prov. 16:18**)
- ➔ And , "**Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall**" (**I Cor. 10:12**).

- Self-confidence in our own ability is the first trap of Satan we fall into.
- Remember, it was the sin of pride that caused his fall from the throne room of God.
- From being the anointed cherub.

## II. NEGLECT OF PRAYER (Matt. 26:40-41)

- **“Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”**
- Emphasize “weak”
- Jesus had warned Peter and the disciple that they would be severely tested by His great enemy (**Luke 22: 36-37**)
- And that they should strengthen their souls through PRAYER.
- We should be in a constant attitude of prayer with the Father because of the continual attacks of Satan.
- Neglecting prayer results from self-confidence and is the second trap of Satan we stumble into.

## III. INDECISION (Luke 22:54)

- **“...Peter followed off...”**
- A decisive stand for Christ is half the battle.
- Let people know who and what you are.
- **"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."**
- As Christians we are called to walk close to Christ, not at a distance.

- Satan likes to fill us with doubt and be indecisive about our commitment to Christ.

#### **IV. EVIL COMPANY (Luke 22:55)**

- **“...Peter sat down among them.”**
- Peter was warming himself among the very ones who condemned Jesus.
- The world is still condemning Jesus and many Christians comfort themselves with (sit among) the world.
- Satan likes to sift us with the lie that world and the things of the world are not so bad.
- You are being unloving if you don't join in with the crowd.
- If you are not part of the ecumenical movement.

#### **V. FEAR OF PEOPLE (Luke 22:56-60)**

- One of man's basic needs is to be accepted.
- We want to be accepted by those around us, many times at the cost of our testimony, we compromise in order to fit in.
- The Bible tells us **“The fear of man bringeth a snare”**
- Our call is to lead others to Christ not follow them away from Christ.
- God told **Jeremiah**, **"Be not afraid of their faces," (1:8)**
- **"Thou therefore gird up thy loins, and arise, and speak unto them all that I command thee: be not dismayed at their faces, lest I confound thee before them." (1:17).**

→ Satan will use the fear of man to sift us as wheat.

**Conclusion:**

→ These are some of the ways Satan seeks to sift us and draw us away from Christ.

→ Do not be fooled by his deceptions.

→ Draw near to God and stay there.

→ Remember, James reminds us in **James 4:7-8**, “**Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.**

**Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh you,...**”

→ Despite all the sifting that the Apostle Peter went through he experienced victory over the devil.

→ Peter reminds us in **1 Peter 5:9** **how to resist the devil**, “**Whom resist stedfast in the faith...**”

→ The Apostle John reminds us in **1 John 5:4**, “**...this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.**”

→ Our Lord encourages us by his words – “**...be of good cheer; I have overcome the world,**” (**John 16:33**)

→ We are closer now to His return than ever before and as such we must remain faithful and true to our Lord and Savior, the Bridegroom Who will return for His bride