

# SURPRISED BY FAILURE

LUKE 22:31-34

THE JOURNEY OF PETER FOLLOWING JESUS



## I. Jesus warns Peter about the reality of Satan and his \_\_\_\_\_ .

*"Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat ..." v. 31*

### A. Who is Satan and what is he capable of?

He is a fallen \_\_\_\_\_ .

He is our formidable \_\_\_\_\_ .

He is \_\_\_\_\_ in will and power.

### B. Why does God allow Satan to sift Peter?

What Satan means for evil, God uses for \_\_\_\_\_ .

## II. Jesus assures Peter that He has prayed for his faith to \_\_\_\_\_ .

*"... but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail.  
and when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers." v. 32*

### A. Jesus knows what it's like to be sifted.

### B. Jesus is always praying for our faith to fail forward.

## III. Peter's self-confidence leaves him \_\_\_\_\_ to temptation.

*Peter said to him, "Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death." Jesus said,  
"I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me." vv. 33-34*

### A. Three ways Satan tempts Peter (and us):

Like a serpent: he makes truth seem \_\_\_\_\_ .

Like an angel of light: he makes evil look \_\_\_\_\_ .

Like a roaring lion: he makes failure seem \_\_\_\_\_ .

## ■ SINCE OUR FAILURE IS NOT FINAL, OUR FAITH CAN STILL BE FRUITFUL.

*Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen. 1 Peter 5:8-11*

Stay on the \_\_\_\_\_ .

\_\_\_\_\_ the Devil.

\_\_\_\_\_ firm in your faith.



### Your Invitation Can Change a Life

Bring someone with you this Easter to hear the gospel. RSVP for you and a friend!

## HOME GROUP

# Lesson + Devotional

*Before you begin, ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and guide your study.*

1. Read Luke 22:31-34. What word is used in verse 31 to describe the attitude with which Satan made his request? What does this tell you about our enemy?
2. Notice that in verse 32 Jesus prays not that Peter himself wouldn't fail, but that his *faith* wouldn't fail. Why is this difference important, and what does that tell you about our Lord?
3. How did Peter's view of his own character differ from Jesus' knowledge of him? Are you ever like Peter in this way? If so, how?
4. How does Peter's self-confident boasting of his loyalty and his subsequent betrayal of Christ serve as a warning to us?
5. Give some personal examples of how you've experienced the way Satan ...
  - makes truth seem false
  - makes evil look good
  - makes failure seem fatal
6. What information from the sermon gave you the most comfort or encouragement, and why?
7. Go through the three application points at the bottom of the sermon notes, giving an example of how you can work on each area over the coming week.

## HELPFUL Quotes

Jesus singles out Peter for special attention, because Satan has zeroed in on this central disciple, asking to take him through the sieve. Like wheat separated from chaff, Satan wishes to check out what Peter is really made of (cf. Satan's effort against Job). But Peter does not face this alone. At his side stands Jesus, who intercedes for him and for his faith. That does not mean success in the middle of the test is guaranteed, for Jesus goes on to note that when Peter has "turned back," he will be called on to strengthen the people. This implies there will be a temporary failure. In the restoration, the ultimate success of Jesus' intercession emerges, showing how even after a disappointment, his work can lead to recovery. - Darrell Bock

We learn, from these verses, what a fearful enemy the devil is to believers. We read that "the Lord said, Simon, Simon, Satan has desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat." He was near Christ's flock, though they saw him not. He was longing to accomplish their ruin, though they knew it not. The wolf does not crave the blood of the lamb more than the devil desires the destruction of souls. The personality, activity, and power of the devil are not sufficiently thought of by Christians. This is he who brought sin into the world at the beginning, by tempting Eve. This is he who is described in the book of Job as "going to and fro in the earth, and walking up and down in it." This is he whom our Lord calls "the prince of this world," a "murderer," and a "liar." This is he whom Peter compares to a "roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." This is he whom John speaks of as "the accuser of the brethren." This is he who is ever working evil in the churches of Christ, catching away good seed from the hearts of hearers, sowing tares amid the wheat, stirring up persecutions, suggesting false doctrines, and fomenting divisions. The world is a snare to the believer. The flesh is a burden and a clog. But there is no enemy so dangerous as that restless, invisible, experienced enemy, the devil. - J. C. Ryle

## YOUR NEXT STEP AT Christ Chapel



### Connect and Belong

New or returning, fill out a Connect Card and experience life together at Christ Chapel.

### Together in Prayer

We want to pray with and for you this week as we go to God together.



### Partner with Us by Giving

Be a part of what God is doing near and far by giving to local and global ministry partners.

### Upcoming Events

Join in to grow your faith, make disciples, and reach those who do not know or walk with Jesus.



## A WONDERFUL Offer

Being a Christian isn't based on membership in a local church or keeping a set of rules. It involves a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and an understanding of who He is and what He has done to provide man with a way to experience God's love for us. Here's how to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior:

1. Admit that you're a sinner, separated from a holy and perfect God. **(Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6)**
2. Understand that the penalty for your sin is death – eternal separation from God and all that is good. **(Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27)**
3. Believe that Jesus Christ took the penalty for your sin by dying in your place and conquered death by rising from the dead. **(Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21)**
4. Receive the free gift of salvation by trusting in Christ alone as your Savior from sin and death and your provider of true and eternal life. **(Romans 4:4-5; Ephesians 2:8-9)**

**You can use this prayer to express your decision to God:**

Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for me and rose from the dead. I trust in him alone as the only way to be reconciled to you. Thank you for the forgiveness of sins and the eternal life I now have. Amen.



We'd love to know about your decision. Scan the QR code to learn more about following Jesus!