

# JESUS PRAYS FOR US

## LESSON 2: THAT YOUR FAITH MAY NOT FAIL LUKE 22:31-32

### I. The setting

### II. The Context

After the institution of the Lord's supper, a discussion of who is the greatest in the Kingdom and Christ's promise regarding their place in the Kingdom, Jesus then turns His attention to Peter. Only Luke records these words.

### III. The Problem: Verse 31

#### A. "Simon, Simon"

The Lord is calling Peter "Simon" again. (In Matt. 16 he changed his name). Or, this is Mary's and Luke's "pet" name for Peter.

Notice the repeat...like "Martha, Martha" in Luke 10:41 or "Saul, Saul" in Acts 9:4.

#### B. Behold – pay attention!

C. Satan "has desired to have you." To challenge you, to lay claim on you, has begged to have you. See Job. 1:6-12 "going to and fro on the earth."

D. "Sift as wheat" – an English idiom might be "pick someone apart." Separating what is desirable from the undesirable.

E. "You" – this is plural. It applies to all Christ's disciples, then and now. John 17:15-17

### IV. The Prayer: Verse 32

#### A. "I have prayed for you"

Jesus communicated with His Father regularly:

- While He taught them how to pray Matt. 6:9-13
- At the tomb of Lazarus John 11:41
- On Palm Sunday John 12:27-28
- That we might have a comforter John 14:16

He encouraged them to pray to their "Abba" (papa). See Rom. 8:15, Gal. 4:6

And in the same gentle way, He focused His intimate communication with his “Abba” on Peter’s behalf. (The “you” is now singular).

B. “That your faith may not fail”

1. “Faith”

- Its source: Rom. 10:17 “Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.”
- It’s definition: Heb. 11:1 “Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.”
- Its “reflection” is good works: James 2:17 “In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”
- Our need: Luke 17:5 “The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!”
- Examples: Abraham (Gen. 22:8), Jehoshaphat (2 Chron. 20:12).

2. “May it not fail”

- Root word: “eclipse” “May not give out” “May not disappear completely.” It’s a lapse not an absence of faith.

3. “When you ‘convert’”

- It’s not a salvation conversion, but a repenting, a turning when you get back on track. (See Acts 3:19)

4. “Strengthen your brothers” – There is still a job to do!

Strengthen: build up...edify (See Rom. 14:19, 15:2, Eph. 4:12, 29)

It’s the same word Peter uses in 1 Pet. 5:10

Your brothers: Christ is reminding Peter that the other disciples are not his inferiors.

## V. The Caveat: Peter’s failures did not disqualify him from service

- A. Jesus was restoring Peter in advance, even with his knowledge of Peter’s approaching denials (Luke 22:33-34, Matt. 26:34, Mark 14:30)
- B. Contract Peter in Matt. 26:69-75 and Acts 5:15.
- C. Consider the power of his ministry in Acts 2:41, 4:4, 4:13, 5:9, 5:15, 5:29

## VI. Just as he did for Peter, Christ’s prayers for us are a wonderful mix of warning and comfort.

- A. We must be careful. We have an enemy who “desires to have us.”

He tempts us: John 13:2 “The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus.”

He opposes us: Zech. 3:1 “Then he showed me Joshua <sup>[a]</sup> the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD , and Satan <sup>[b]</sup> standing at his right side to accuse him.”

He sows evil seeds: Matt. 13:38-39 “The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.”

He lies to us: John 8:44 “ You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is not truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

He is actively seeking our ruin: 1 Pet. 5:8 “Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”

B. Christ lives to make intercession for us.

1. See Rom. 8:34 and Heb. 7:25

2. He is our High Priest

He is sympathetic (Heb. 4:14), He is eternal (Heb. 6:20), He is sinless (Heb. 7:26), He is exalted (Heb. 8:1)

C. He has a job for us to do (even if we occasionally fail Him!) “Strengthen” those around us.

Eph. 4:12 – Equip the saints

Eph. 4:29 – Minister grace

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### ***Discussion Questions:***

1. Overall, what do you think the relationship was like between Jesus and Peter?
2. Why do you think Jesus specifically prayed for Peter?
3. In your own words, define “faith.” What kinds of things are you confident in? What do you really believe?
4. In your own life this week, how can you strengthen folks around you?