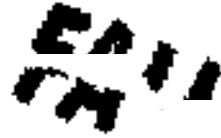


Luke 22:31-65

STAND FIRM



A. Our Vulnerability (22:31-34)

1. Permission Granted (31-32)

Now we might be surprised why God would give permission to tempt Peter (22:31). Jesus evidently knew about the whole deal. Understanding the way God deals with man are difficult enough let alone understanding the operations of the spiritual world. We have two accounts that provide us with some insight into these issues.

• **In the Garden (Genesis 3:1-7)**

• **In Job's Troubles (Job 1:6-12; 2:1-7)**

2. Target Located (31-32)

No one is exempt from the evil one's ploys. Satan tempted Peter and even Jesus (Lu 4:2). Why is it that we exempt ourselves? I am not saying that Satan thinks us so strategic so he himself comes after us, but for lesser strategic people, he has lesser strategic demons to test and taunt. The testing is similar.

3. Help Engaged (31-32)

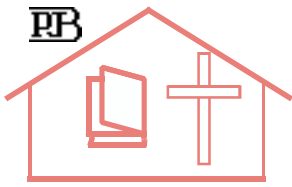
Spiritual struggles are real. Leaders are like head pins in a bowling alley. They are the targeted ones. We are to pray for those in leadership. If we think those over us are fine without our prayers and support, then we are desperately naive. The strongest leaders will be the ones finding support, not much different than Jesus did with Peter.

4. Naivety Exposed (33-34)

Peter's acknowledged willingness is different than his commitment. Our emotions blind us of our spiritual immaturity. We think all is fine. Jesus' words of rebuke - of what would happen - were surely to return because they were not heard (cf. 22:61-62).

Jesus Avoids Temptation

- Discerns Satan's Purpose (22:31)
- Understands Satan's Blinding (22:34)
- Molds Himself according to scripture (35-38)
- Tells His disciples to protect themselves (40, 46)
- Prays for His submission to God's plan (41-44)
- Accepts the hour of darkness (53)



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B. Preparations (22:35-38)

This paragraph really seems to interrupt the tension in the story, but in fact it just adds another dimension. Jesus intensifies the warning of the coming calamity.

1. Confidence in the Facts (35)

Jesus first puts things in perspective. The penniless Jesus asked, "When I sent you out without purse and bag and sandals, you did not lack anything, did you?" Jesus pointed out the facts. The Lord took care of them. "They said, "No, nothing..." (Luke 22:35). Jesus would take care of them. But there would be changes.

2. Warning of Change (36-37)

Jesus' words "but now" in verse 36 sets out a different context. Was Jesus trying to say:

- In His absence, they would have to fend for themselves, Jesus might have been awoken them to their need of prayer and protection.
- He was being very sure to be as close to scripture as possible? Jesus would fulfill the prophecy being regarding as a criminal.

I am not sure that Jesus could watch them in the same way after His death and before the resurrection. But He did what was necessary so that the disciples were generally covered even during this time when all His disciples would scatter (cf. Peter Lu 22:32). The disciples could have been further protected if they followed Jesus' advice, but they didn't.

3. A Point of Clarification (38)

One thing is very clear. Jesus was not hinting at military resistance which other Jewish zealots had used. This is demonstrated by Jesus' saying that two swords were sufficient! Sufficient for what? Sufficient only to be rumored that Jesus was a criminal.

Summary

Luke uses this section both as an additional proof of Jesus Messiahship by the fulfillment of prophecy but also to affirm that the falling away of the disciples was under the Lord's control.

C. Protection only in Prayer (22:39-46)

We must not minimize this lesson. Two times the Lord warned his disciples **"Pray that you may not enter into temptation."** (Luke 22:40). They failed, and they sinned. Jesus wanted them to hold out, but they failed. And we...?

1. Jesus Exhorted them to Pray (40,46)

How do we treat temptation? Do we treat it as if we can on our own avoid temptation? But temptation was coming to the disciples. They couldn't avoid it. The question was if they were going to be sufficiently prepared not to enter into it. 'Entering in' implies a surrender to its snare. Jesus was tempted but refused to give into it. Now it is the disciples' opportunity to stand strong in the Lord; they needed to pray to avoid entering into temptation just as Jesus did.

The Matthew account has Jesus addressing the disciples to pray three times. This is no contradiction. The incident was welded onto Matthew's mind, but Luke did not see this incident.

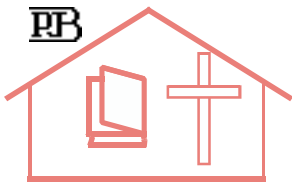
Our Excuses

But I am so tired.
I can't think.
I am so confused.
I'm too busy.
I'm too worried.

2. Jesus Himself Prayed (41-45)

Alone and kneeling, Jesus prays. What is the significance of Jesus praying? Why is it that the Son of God must pray? How does this prayer in 42 differ from the prayer in 32?

Angels appear at crucial times. Notice in this case they strengthened Jesus to do the will of God. After He knew and accepted what God's will was, He was strengthened to pray fervently about what He would be facing. So intense was His prayers that "His sweat became like drops of blood."

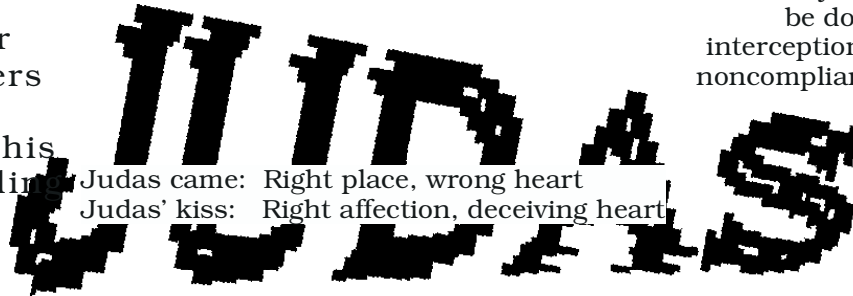


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D. Satan's Plan Unfolded (22:47-53)

Satan promises power but mercilessly delivers abuse. Those he befriends are but for his own purposes, trampling upon those who get sucked up into his evil devises.



Judas came: Right place, wrong heart
Judas' kiss: Right affection, deceiving heart

Physical defense was pointless because He said, "... Not My will, but Thine be done" (42). Any interception would imply noncompliance to the will of His Father.

"But this hour and the power of darkness are yours."

E. Overcome by Temptation (22:54-62)

"Woman, I do not know Him." (57)

"Man, I am not!" (58)

"Man, I do not know what you

Denial

What kind of attitude should brother that sins? Should we Condemn? Confront? Ignore? Lord's response to Peter (61, c)

Wept bitterly

Did Simon Peter and the disciples have to fall?

- Simon was warned (31).
- Simon didn't listen to warning.
- Simon was prayed for (32).
- Disciples didn't pray.
- Disciples were reminded of God's care (35).
- Disciples physically attempted to control (50).
- Disciples were told to pray several times (40, 46).
- Peter Denied Jesus 3 times (54- 61).