

Sifted As Wheat

Luke 22:24-34



“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”

- Luke 22:31-32

Warning from Jesus

➤ Satan had demanded to have all for sifting

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Warning from Jesus

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Then Satan answered the Lord and said, “Does Job fear God for no reason? Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands and his possessions have increased in the land. But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face.”

- Job 1:9-11

Warning from Jesus

- Satan had demanded to have all for sifting

Then Satan answered the Lord and said, "Skin for skin! All that a man has he will give for his life. But stretch out your hand and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face."

- Job 2:4-5

Warning from Jesus

- Satan had demanded to have all for sifting
- But Jesus had already prayed for Peter
 - Jesus knew of the coming test and its outcome
 - He addressed it in advance

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- Luke 22:31-32

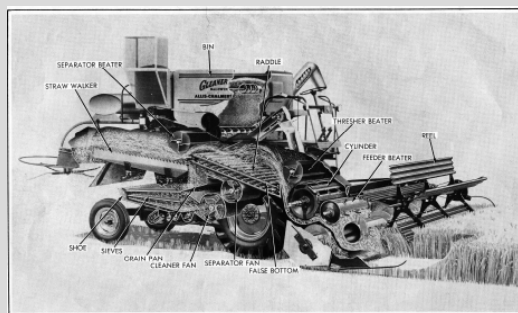
Sifting

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- Testing of our faith is not pleasant, either
 - May be as simple as having to choose between God and ...

❖ Self

❖ Family

If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.

- Luke 14:26

Sifting

- Threshing and sifting are violent actions
- Testing of our faith is not pleasant, either
 - May be as simple as having to choose between God and ...

❖ Self

❖ Family

❖ Brethren

So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be My disciple.

- Luke 14:33

Sifting

- Threshing and sifting are violent actions
- Testing of our faith is not pleasant, either
 - *May be as simple as having to choose between God and ...*
 - ❖ *Self* ❖ *Family* ❖ *Brethren*
 - *Taking a stand for truth can be costly*
 - *It can happen suddenly and without warning*

Benefits of Sifting

- Although not pleasant, "sifting" reminds us that we are pilgrims and sojourners
 - *It removes useless and detrimental facets (chaff)*
 - *It refocuses our priorities*

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.
- James 1:2-3

Benefits of Sifting

- Although not pleasant, "sifting" reminds us that we are pilgrims and sojourners
 - Because of his experience at being sifted, Peter was a more useful servant
- or,
- Simon would not have been the Peter that he became without the sieve and the discipline

Benefits of Sifting

- Although not pleasant, "sifting" reminds us that we are pilgrims and sojourners
- Because of his experience at being sifted, Peter was a more useful servant
 - *He knew first-hand the power of Satan*

But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land?"
- Acts 5:3

Benefits of Sifting

- Although not pleasant, "sifting" reminds us that we are pilgrims and sojourners
- Because of his experience at being sifted, Peter was a more useful servant
 - *He knew first-hand the power of Satan*

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.
- I Peter 5:8-9

Benefits of Sifting

- Although not pleasant, "sifting" reminds us that we are pilgrims and sojourners
- Because of his experience at being sifted, Peter was a more useful servant
 - *He knew first-hand the power of Satan*
 - *He knew about suffering from being sifted*
 - ❖ *That it would come (I Peter 4:12)*
 - ❖ *That we should not be troubled by it (I Peter 3:14)*
 - ❖ *That we should wait patiently (I Peter 2:21, 23)*
 - ❖ *That it would be worth it (I Peter 1:7)*

Benefits of Sifting

- Although not pleasant, "sifting" reminds us that we are pilgrims and sojourners
- Because of his experience at being sifted, Peter was a more useful servant
- We, too, become more useful after "sifting"
 - *When challenged to teach the lost*
 - *When challenged to defend the truth*
 - *When challenged to fulfill scriptural teaching obligations*

Conclusions

- ☞ Jesus saw Satan as a real entity
- ☞ We need to see that we have value to both God and Satan
- ☞ Instead of praying for lighter loads, we need to pray for stronger shoulders