

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

1201 Meeks St. Corinth, Ms. 38834

Phone – (662) 287-2187

Visit Our Website at:

MeeksstreetchurchofChrist.com

January 13, 2018

“What Satan Wants For Your Life”

By Brian Meade

In Luke 22:31-32, Jesus warned Peter (and really all the disciples) when He said, *“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”*

Jesus knew very well of Satan’s intentions to shake their faith to the core and wanted to forewarn them of Satan’s plans for their lives. The devil wanted, not just Peter, but all the disciples to fall from faithfulness— as the “You” (after the word *sift* in verse 31) is plural in the Greek.

It is evident that the time of testing (sifting) was when Jesus would be betrayed and go to the cross, as Jesus had said to them, *“You will all fall away because of Me this night, for it is written, ‘I will strike down the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered.’*

The Disciples would rebound and be strengthened in their faith by seeing Jesus after His resurrection. But what about us living today? Are we to conclude that Satan was only interested in tearing down the Disciples, and not us too? Even though we are not privy to Jesus’ specific information about when Satan is behind the scenes working against us, we know that it happens!

We know what the disposition and attitude Satan takes toward ALL believers by what the Holy Spirit has revealed to us in the scriptures. We know the devil is our adversary, who is always plotting our demise (I Peter 5:8).

Let’s look at what Satan Desires for your life today:

(1) Satan Wants You To Sin Against God.

In Matthew 4:1-3, the Bible gives us the occasion when the Devil would even tempt our Lord. Matthew tells us, *“Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.”* Matthew also records by inspiration another name for the devil in verse 3, *“And the tempter came and said to Him...”* Paul also uses that same term in his first epistle to the Thessalonians, when he said, *“For this reason, when I could endure it no longer, I also sent to find out about your faith, for fear that the tempter might have tempted you, and our labor would be in vain.”*

Paul did not have to clarify who it was that he was concerned about tempting them to sin and to fall away from the faith. Because that’s the Devil’s job, and he takes it seriously! It is the only vocation and purpose that he has—to tempt all men and women with temptations and opportunities to sin.



And in this battle with temptations, Satan will use our weaknesses against us. He will attempt to exploit any and all areas that we may be prone to give in to, in regard to temptation. With Jesus, the devil used our Lord's hunger from His fasting against Him, tempting to make bread from stones (Matthew 4:3). We can also expect that He will use our very strongest desires like food, drink, companionship, recognition, power, money, control, and pleasure against us! The devil knows what sin does in separating men from God (Isaiah 59:1-2). And that's his main motivation for working so hard at causing us to fall away.

But the good news is that he can be overcome through God's power and our resisting his temptations. We should know that after the victory won at the cross and the provision of salvation by the blood of Christ— all men can be free from Satan's power. Satan is not all powerful, he only has the power that you give him when you sin. James 4:7 tells us that his power can be resisted, "...Resist the devil and he will flee from you." That is why God provides us the "*full armor of God*" (Ephesians 6:10-18). God wants us to win!

(2) Satan Wants To Ruin Your Life.

The Greek definition of ruin is "what has been broken or rent asunder." (Thayer's Greek Lexicon) It is the same word that is used in Luke 6:49, as Jesus describes the ruin of the house without a good foundation when the storms and winds beat upon it. Jesus is actually describing the outcome that Satan wants for your life— to completely ruin it! And sadly, with a lot of people he is succeeding; they are letting Satan have his way with their lives.

Take for instance, the before and after pictures of the lives in regard to sin: Adam and Eve lived in a perfect garden in Eden before the devil came along to seek to ruin it for them (and all humanity). They had all they needed: food, drink, the tree of life that gave them eternal life, complete purity of life, comfort and ease in the paradise of God. Most importantly, they had the fellowship and closeness to God their Creator. But all of that changed when Eve was tempted to sin by the devil and gave in to Satan's desire for them (Genesis 3:1-19).

They lost all of what God provided in the garden when they were cast out (Genesis 3:22-24). They lost their purity, good conscience, and their close fellowship with God. Work became more difficult for Adam and childbirth for Eve (and all women) became an extremely painful experience! Physical and spiritual death entered the world the day they ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil (Rom. 5:12; Heb. 9:27) This first act of sin devastated their lives to the point of ruin! The consequences of that sin are still felt today.

We could look to the example of Job, in Job chapters 1-2. Even though it was not for Job's sin that he suffered — it was the devil's desire to take away all he had to tempt and torment Job. But Job persevered and was rewarded for keeping his faith. The only way Satan can truly ruin your life is for you to stay in sin to the Judgment Day; the ruin of that day is eternal! (Matt. 25:46).

(3) Satan Wants You To Stay Out Of The Church.

Satan knows that all men need to be among the number of the saved to be in a safe condition (Acts 2:41-47). When we obey the gospel, we leave Satan's power & domain (Col. 1:13) and are added to the church (Acts 2:47).

Satan also understands that, if it is simple and easy for men to find the truth— men and women will obey it— and thus be lost from his control. Therefore, Satan wants the truth of God's way of salvation and the church that Jesus built to be concealed in a maze of confusion, speculations, traditions, denominational division, and error. Paul said in 2 Cor. 4:3-4, "*And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*"

(4) Satan Wants You To Be Punished With Him.

The apostle John wrote in Revelation 12:12 "*For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time.*" If we can understand some of the message of this verse from its symbolism or types, it is a message of warning to us here! The devil is not friendly or helpful to us in any way. We should see his motivation to take us down with him to punishment. That is what those who know they are faced with certain punishment will often do— take others with them!

It reminds me of the saying, "Misery loves company." The devil knows his fate and only has a short time to do what he can to hurt us too! Don't let him lead you to where he is going at the Judgment Day (Matthew 25:41).

A Women's Bible Class

Starts back this January 2019.

Will meet monthly on the 3rd Thursday of the Month at 7:00 PM.

Ask Chris or Kathryn Callahan for where to meet.



News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Nicky Curtis, Martha Norvell (Mississippi Care), June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Clois Wright, Debbie Keplinger, Gaddy Hall, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Tammy Kilgore (Jerry's niece), Betty Hurst, Peggy Harville (cancer), Pam Zeanah,

There will be singings at River Bend, Al. and SouthSide Houston, Ms. This month.
(Details in the foyer for both)

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer:

Russell Briggs

Preaching:

Brian Meade

Sermon #1:

"Christians Must Have Courage"

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Jerry Kennemur

The Book of John (Mike Willis)

Page 85, Question #3

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements:

Paul Busby

Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:

Fred Johnson

Matthew 7:1-5

Song Leader:

Jerry Kennemur

Lord's Table:

Paul Johnson

Assisting:

Dan Cottrell & Russell Briggs

Preaching:

Brian Meade

Sermon #2:

"Judging Others— Good, Bad, & Ugly"

Closing Prayer:

Nathan Meade

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

January 16th:

Auditorium Bible Class:

Paul Busby

1 & 2 Chronicles (Mike Willis)

Page 40, Question #1

Invitation:

Dan Cottrell

Song Leader:

Russell Briggs

Closing Prayer:

Tim Harris Sr.