

LIVING UP TO OUR COMMITMENTS

Luke 22:31-38

Introduction:

1. This word of warning concerning denial came up just after Jesus had settled the argument over who was the greatest among His disciples.
2. Jesus had girded Himself with a towel and washed the disciples' feet, and Peter said he was not worthy, but the Lord insisted upon washing his feet.
3. Peter, in front of the disciples, was told he would deny Jesus 3 x's that night.
4. What causes one to fail to live for Jesus after walking with Him?

I. (vv. 31-32) SELF-SUFFICIENCY INSTEAD OF CAREFUL DISCIPLESHIP.

1. Here's the Biblical truth to which we must resort.
 - A. Mark 14:38 says, "The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."
 - B. John 15:5 says, "Abide in Me, for without Me you can do nothing."
 - C. Philippians 4:13 says, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."
2. Here's the Biblical truth we must always remember.
 - A. (v. 31) We Christians will all be sifted.
 - B. Jesus called Simon Peter's name, but the word "you" is plural, meaning all the disciples will be sifted.
 - C. The Greek states, "Sift by inward agitation; trying your faith to the point of overthrow."
3. The truth is we can't be run thru Satan's sifter w/o the Lord's approval.
 - A. Job 2:6 says, "He is in your hand, only spare his life."
 - B. I Cor. 10:13 says, "There has no temptation taken you, but such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not permit you to be tempted above that you are able, but will, with the temptation, also make the way to escape, that you may be able to bear it."
4. (v. 32) We Christians will most likely stagger.
 - A. All the disciples except Judas soon passed the test.
 - B. Peter's courage failed, but not his faith.
 - C. Thee is singular as Jesus addressed Peter and assigned him to strengthen the brethren.
5. (v. 32) The word "converted" means, "Peter when you get returned back around to your original position with respect to your faith, strengthen (stabilize) the brethren.
6. After the resurrection, Peter was really used to strengthen folks' faith.

[Self-sufficiency instead of careful discipleship, now:]

II. (vv. 33-36) SELF-SUFFICIENCY INSTEAD OF GOD DEPENDENCY.

1. I'm an independent person – what do you mean??
2. Joe Clayton had a church sign, "Dependent on the Lord Jesus Christ."
3. Peter had experienced some spiritual victories (Matthew 16:13-16).
4. Peter had his mouth in gear before his heart's vision.
5. What does the Bible say about our self-efficiency?
 - A. Jeremiah 17:9 says, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?"
 - B. Deuteronomy 23:21-23 says, "When you shall vow a vow unto the Lord your God, you shall not be slack to pay it; for the Lord your God will surely require it of you, and it would be sin in you. But if you shall forbear to vow, it shall be no sin in you. That which is gone out of your lips you shall keep and perform, even a freewill offering, according as you have vowed unto the Lord your God, which you have promised with your mouth."
 - C. Ecclesiastes 5:5 says, "Better is it that you not vow than to make a vow and not pay it."
 - D. Psalm 116:12-14 says, "What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me? I will take the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows unto the Lord now in the presence of all His people."
 - E. I Cor 10:12 says, "Let him that thinks he stands take heed lest he fall."
 - F. In verse 36 it says it's better to lack a garment than a sword.
6. Where did Peter's self-sufficiency lead him?
 - A. In verses 49-51 it says Peter resorted to the physical over the spiritual (Matthew 26:52-54 – Put your sword up!).
 - B. In verse 54 it records that Peter followed Jesus afar off (All others had run except John who came to the cross).
 - C. In verses 55-59 it records that Peter warmed himself by the devil's fire and in the company of the enemies of Christ.
 - 1) His company caused fear to overpower his courage.
 - 2) His company caused filthy words to overpower his courage (Matt. 26:74 – Peter cursed and swore he never knew Jesus.)

Conclusion: Luke 22:61-62

1. Conviction of sin, brokenness over sin, and repentance of sin restored Peter back to his commitment to Jesus.
2. The same thing will happen to us when this action is taken.