

Further up, Further in

Resources for Continued Study



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

"JESUS' PROVISION FOR ENDANGERED DISCIPLES"

For individual study or discussion

Not fully realizing the imminent death of Christ, the disciples are unaware of the dangers that lay ahead for both Jesus and themselves. The disciples struggle to see that, in less than 24 hours, their lives will be upended. In Luke 22:31-38, Jesus grabs the attention of the disciples by predicting that serious denials and severe difficulties lay ahead for them. But they will not be abandoned. **Jesus' provision for the endangered disciples** includes advocating for them in the midst of their failures and equipping them for future service.

The complex dangers facing Jesus' followers (vv. 31, 33-36)

Jesus surprises Peter when he says, "*Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat*" (v. 31). On the very night before Jesus is crucified, he knows the disciples will deny him, betray him, and abandon him. They are all in imminent danger of Satan's sifting, especially Peter. Jesus warns his followers of the rising hostility to his person, and that the world as they know it is about to change.

- **Imminent danger of Satan's sifting:** Read 1 Peter 1:6-7 and James 1:2-4. What are reasons God allows people to be tested? Why do people often overestimate their ability to handle tests of faith? Read Isaiah 30:28 and Amos 9:9 for a better understanding of being *sifted*.
- **Misplaced confidence in ourselves:** Jesus knows us better than we know ourselves. Can you recall a time when you were overly confident about your ability to stand, only to subsequently fall?
- **Rising hostility to the person of Jesus:** Later, Peter would write a letter instructing believers in how to maintain hope and holiness in an increasingly hostile world. Read 1 Peter 1:3-12. How does understanding the greatness of our salvation help us live the Christian life with hope?

The compassionate responses of Jesus (vv. 32, 37-38)

"*I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail*" (v. 32a). Jesus' compassionate response to Peter demonstrates his desire to intercede, strengthen, and restore his followers unto himself. As one theologian summarizes, "*It is a consoling thought that Christ is praying for us, even when we are negligent in our prayer life; that He is presenting to the Father those spiritual needs which were not present to our minds and which we often neglect to include in our prayers; and that He prays for our protection against the dangers of which we are not even conscious, and against the enemies which threaten us, though we do not notice it. He is praying that our faith may not cease, and that we may come out victoriously in the end.*"¹ While we may have a powerful adversary, we have an even more powerful Advocate who will not let us fall away!

- **Jesus earnestly prays for our faith not to fail.** Robert Murray M'Cheyne wrote, "*If I could hear Christ praying for me in the next room, I would not fear a million enemies. Yet distance makes no difference. He is praying for me.*"² How does Christ's intercession for you give you confidence?
- **Jesus graciously anticipates our restoration.** Recall Christ's charge to Peter to "*strengthen his brothers*" when he turns back (v. 32b). What does it tell you about God's ability to redeem any past failures?
- **Jesus willingly atones for our sin.** Read Isaiah 53. Identify the similarities of verses 10-12 with our study. How is Christ's death more than a mere martyr's death?
- **Jesus patiently bears with our constant misunderstanding.** Jesus explains to the disciples that he is about to willingly go to the cross on their behalf. But all they can think about is buying swords. Jesus responds, "*It is enough*" (v. 38). According to most commentators, Christ is not saying two swords are enough, but more than likely ending the conversation with saying, "*Enough of this.*"³ Why the sudden change in instructions from Luke 9:1-5? If they lacked nothing before, will they still lack nothing even under altered conditions?

DATE: January 26, 2025

SPEAKER: Brian/Frank

SERIES: The Gospel of Luke

PASSAGE: Luke 22:31-38

RENEW: 31 Days of Prayer

DAY 20: To glorify God by giving ourselves away on the mountain

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, as we seek to glorify you by giving ourselves away on the mountain, we pray today for our community. We thank you that, in your kind providence, you have placed us on Lookout Mountain at this time. We know that you determine the times set for us and where we will live, and we thank you that it is here and now that you have placed us. We pray for our community on the mountain and our place in it. Help us to be a city on a hill that cannot be hidden. Cause us to let our light shine before the men and women of this community, that they might see our good deeds and praise you, our Father. We thank you, Jesus, that you left your throne above, took on our flesh, and dwelt among us—you moved into our neighborhood! We thank you that you came not to call the righteous, but sinners like us. Open our eyes to see the lost and the hurting in our community. Motivate us to move towards them in friendship and with the glorious good news of the Gospel. Please give us opportunities to get to know our neighbors, new and old, and share with them the hope that is within us. Finally, Lord, we pray for revival. Lord of the harvest, add to your church every single day the ones being saved. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

Salvation Army, supported
partner ministry

PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

Champions United in Uganda,
world missions partners

¹Berkhof, Louis. *Systematic Theology, Complete Edition*. 2018, Grand Rapids, MI. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 403

²Robert Murray M'Cheyne, in *The Works of Rev. Robert Murray McCheyne: Complete in One Volume* (New York: Robert Carter & Brothers, 1874), 138

³Davis, Dale R. *Luke 14-24: On the Road to Jerusalem*. 2021, Ross-shire, Scotland. Christian Focus Publications, 174