

# When Satan Sifted Peter

Luke 22:31-34

## Luke 22:31–34 (ESV)

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# Satan's Request to Sift Peter

- What is sifting?

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To sift –  
to separate by  
passing through a  
sieve or other  
straining device to  
separate out  
coarser elements



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- Why did Satan want to sift Peter and the rest of the apostles ?

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## Revelation 12:9–11 (ESV)

**9** And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. **10** And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for **the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.** **11** And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.

## Job 1:6–12 (ESV)

**6** Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. **7** The LORD said to Satan, “From where have you come?” Satan answered the LORD and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.” **8** And the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?” **9** Then Satan answered the LORD and said, **“Does Job fear God for no reason? 10 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. 11 But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face.”** **12** And the LORD said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand.” So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

## Job 2:1–6 (ESV)

**1** Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the LORD. **2** And the LORD said to Satan, “From where have you come?” Satan answered the LORD and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.” **3** And the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil? He still holds fast his integrity, although you incited me against him to destroy him without reason.” **4** Then Satan answered the LORD and said, “Skin for skin! All that a man has he will give for his life. 5 But stretch out your hand and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face.” **6** And the LORD said to Satan, “Behold, he is in your hand; only spare his life.”

We may imagine the evil one arguing thus before the Eternal: “These chosen ones who are appointed to work in the future so tremendous a work in thy Name, are utterly unworthy. Let me just try to lure them away with my lures. Lo, they will surely fall. *See, one has already.*”

- Spence-Jones, H. D. M. (Ed.). (1909). St Luke (Vol. 2, p. 201). London; New York: Funk & Wagnalls Company.

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- What was Jesus' response?
- Did Jesus think Peter would stand?
- Did Peter think he would stand?
- What was required for Peter to come through this sifting victorious?

# What Peter Needed

- A recognition that he was under spiritual attack
- A realistic view of his own steadfastness
- The intercession of Jesus Christ
- To turn again after he fell
- To know that he had a contribution to make even though he had stumbled

# What We Need

- A recognition that we are under spiritual attack

# Revelation 12:12–13 (ESV)

**12** Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short! **13** And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. .... **16** But the earth came to the help of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth. **17** Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

# What We Need

- A recognition that we are under spiritual attack
- A realistic view of our own steadfastness

# 1 Corinthians 10:11-13 (ESV)

**11** Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.

**12** Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. **13** No temptation has

overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

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# Matthew 6:13 (NKJV)

**13** And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one.

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## 1 John 1:9–2:1 (ESV)

**9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **10** If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. **1** My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

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## John 21:15–17 (ESV)

15 When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, **“Feed my lambs.”** 16 He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, **“Tend my sheep.”** 17 He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, **“Feed my sheep.”**

## 1 Timothy 1:15–16 (ESV)

15 The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. 16 But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.

# Applications and Observations

- Satan wants to sift us to show we are worthless, weak and wicked
- God wants us to demonstrate that our faith is the victory that overcomes the world
- The best outcome when tested is for us to resist the devil and make him flee from us
- The worst outcome would be for us to fail and not return
- If we fail in resisting, we can still show faith and perseverance by our repentance
- Satan accuses us, but Jesus loves, redeems, supports, intercedes for, forgives and empowers us

## Revelation 3:19–20 (ESV)

**19** Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. **20** Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.