

# **Day and Night}**

## **Luke 22:28-34**

### **Dr. Paul Cannings**

#### **A. He Strengthens Us (vs. 28-30):**

1. You are of those who have stood – Christ recognized the disciples for their complete commitment to remain with Him permanently. They had committed to follow Him to His death (John 11:16 – Thomas committed to die with Christ; Peter cut the soldier's ear and followed Christ until He arrived at the trial).

a) Their loyalty to Christ cost them everything (Matthew 19:27).

b) Their loyalty to Him has caused Him to share His kingdom with them (Mt. 19:27-30; Reve. 3:20-22).

c) Jesus recognized what the disciples had endured. They had stayed with him from Galilee to Jerusalem despite the plots of the religious leaders, the fickleness of the crowds, and the difficult lifestyle with no financial resources, no place to live, and no guaranteed source of food . They had not fallen away in the time of testing (see 8:13). Many of his followers had turned back and rejected him, but the disciples had remained true—except for the betrayer.<sup>[\[1\]](#)</sup>

2. Trial; temptation – When Christ was being solicited to go against the will of God so that those involved can prove Christ is not of God the disciples were completely resolved to remain with Him.

a) Thus, whereas Jesus may in his ministry have been spared from a direct frontal attack of Satan such as 4:1–13, this does not mean that Satan was not active in seeking to undermine and thwart his ministry. During all this time, the disciples were with him. (Compare Acts 1:21–22, where the only requirement listed for being the twelfth apostle was to “have been with us the whole time.”) Although the disciples would themselves face trials in the future (Luke 12:4–12; 22:36; Acts 20:19), the trials in this verse look backward, not forward, and are associated with Jesus, not them. <sup>[2]</sup>

3. Has granted – God continuously has appointed Christ, in the form of a covenant, to rule His kingdom (Philippians 2:6-11) with full authority and power forever.

4. A kingdom of God – God has anointed Jesus to sovereignly rule over everything in heaven and on earth with all power and authority (Philippians 2:6-11).

a) Jewish literature often portrayed the kingdom as a future time when Israel would partake of a banquet prepared for them; a standard Jewish expectation for that time was that the lost tribes of Israel would be restored. Those who “judged” Israel in the Old Testament ruled it. <sup>[3]</sup>

b) Christ is demonstrating that He is in the very nature of God in the following manner:

- He will have His kingdom with full authority so He can appoint them to share in it.
- He knows what their role will be – judge the tribes of Israel.
- He knows what is taking place in heaven while on earth.
- He is still willing to come under God, so He prays, but He already knows the answer to the prayer and tells Peter what to do when ‘he turns.’
- He can see the future when He tells Peter how he would betray Him.

a) The image of God's people reigning and judging appears in Daniel 7:9, 14, 27; Matthew 19:28; 1 Corinthians 6:2–3. On the foundational role of the apostles see Ephesians 2:20; Revelation 21:14. <sup>[4]</sup>

5. Has granted - Christ has, once and for all, decided to appoint His disciples to share in the rule of His kingdom, specifically as it relates to Israel.

a) In light of the future dimension of the parallel sayings in 22:16, 18, it is best to understand this promise as referring to that time when the believer will share in the benefits of Jesus' kingly rule (cf. 22:29–30a). Like the first promise in 22:30a, this one is best understood metaphorically as referring to participating in the consummated kingdom where believers experience the blessings of their Lord's reign. Although there is a sense in which Jesus already at his resurrection reigned as King (22:69; Acts 2:33; 5:31), the kingly rule referred to here will take place in the consummation at the redemption brought by the Son of Man (21:28). Matthew understood it in this manner, for he spoke of this taking place "at the renewal of all things" (Matt 19:28). Compare 1 Cor 6:2–3; 2 Tim 2:12; Rev 2:26–29; 3:21. <sup>[5]</sup>

6. You may eat and drink at My table – The disciples, unlike the 58 (Luke 10:1-24; John 6:53-71) who forsook Christ, will have an exclusive relationship with Christ in His kingdom.

7. Judges – Christ will provide His disciples continually full authority to determinatively make decisions that will find those involved guilty, liable for punishment, or not guilty.

## **B. He Protects (vs. 31-32):**

1. Behold – Jesus Christ calls Peter to give Him his undivided attention and to make special note of what He was about to tell him.

- a) Christ, even though very busy on earth, was very present in heaven.
2. Satan – Satan, Christian’s adversary, the prince of demons (Revelation 12:10), who opposes God’s agenda for mankind, is in heaven before God to gain access to Peter. Notice this is a nominative meaning, and the main reason Christ addresses His disciples. It’s a warning to Peter.
3. Satan – Christ, before His death and resurrection, where He will sit on the right hand of God, chooses to engage in the meeting between God and Satan on behalf of Peter.
4. Satan – Peter is going to preach at Pentecost (Acts 2:14-36) and be a key leader in establishing the church (Acts 2-7, 10-15) so his prince of demons comes after him.
5. Demanded permission - Satan was before God requesting permission (can include begging) to have access to Peter. It seems like he wanted to influence Peter with fear and doubt.

a) As he gained permission to test Job (Job 1:12; 2:6), so now he will test Peter and the other apostles (in the Greek “you” is plural in Luke 22:31, but singular in 22:32). Wheat was sifted through a sieve to separate the grain from chaff and other foreign matter (Isa. 30:28; Amos 9:9). Sirach 27:4 reads: “When a sieve is shaken, the refuse appears; so do a person’s faults when he speaks.”<sup>[6]</sup>

a) Peter had an ally Job did not. Jesus was praying for him. This is a foretaste of Jesus’ heavenly role as our intercessor (Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25). Here is a prayer of Jesus that was not fulfilled. Faith did fail Peter. Jesus knew it would. So, Jesus encouraged Peter to come back from failure. Failure does not have to be the last word. Satan can win a battle and lose the war. After giving into temptation, Peter could become stronger and become a source of strength for others. Failure need not be complete. Forgiveness is readily available. Here is the good news of the gospel for everyone.<sup>[7]</sup>

6. Sift – Satan wants to ‘winnow you like a farmer who separates the wheat from the chaff.’ This could mean he wants to bring out the bad in Peter while separating him from the good that Christ developed in him.

a) The word “sift” (22:31) was an agricultural term that referred to the process of separating the kernels of grain from the chaff. The reference to the “sword” (22:36) was a bit confusing since Jesus apparently did not intend for his disciples to use force to deliver him (22:49–51; cf. Matt. 26:52). Perhaps Jesus used the term figuratively to speak of the perilous and difficult days ahead. The disciples apparently took him literally and produced two swords (Luke 22:38). Jesus’ words “That’s enough” (22:38) may simply mean “Enough of this talk” (see in that regard, 22:51).<sup>[8]</sup>

b) Peter will be jailed several times in Acts (Acts 4:3; 5:18; 12:1–19). According to church tradition he suffered martyrdom in Rome by being crucified upside down.<sup>[9]</sup> We do not struggle with flesh and blood (Ephesians 6:12)

7. Pray – Christ did not sit idly by when Satan approached God’s throne.

8. Pray – By using this word, Christ is seeking to communicate. He called God to His side to provide aid to Peter. It can also mean He supplicated before God on Peter’s behalf.

9. Pray – We are blessed to have Christ at the right hand of God (Matthew 26:64) as our High Priest (Hebrews 8:1-2), and the Holy Spirit praying the groans of our hearts (Romans 8:26). This intercession takes place with the hope that God will not allow us to experience more than we can bear (1 Corinthians 10:13). “Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ” (Romans 8:38-39). This is why Paul says, “we are more than conquerors” (Romans 8:37). As a result, “What then shall we say to those things? If God is for us, who is against us?” (Romans 8:31).

10. Faith may not fail – Christ intercedes because He does not want Peter’s steadfast confidence, intense trust, and full surrender to Him to change because Satan attacks his life.

11. Faith may not fail – Peter’s deep trust in Christ caused him to follow and remain with Christ as the soldiers came to arrest Christ. Even after watching Christ’s response to Peter cutting the soldier’s ear, he still followed Christ to the trial, even though it was from afar. His deep conviction for Christ was demonstrated even under these difficult circumstances. Satan establishing fear in Peter’s heart diminished his faith, causing Peter to deny Christ.

12. Once you have returned again – Christ is admitting that Peter would fail. Christ also confides to Peter that he will be restored. Maybe this was God’s concession to Satan’s request.

13. Establish your brothers – Christ depends on Peter upon his restoration (John 21:15-17) to make sure every one of the other disciples (his brothers) are re-established in their faith and are committed once again (here Christ admits they have been faithful to Him; vs. 28-29) to continue to follow Christ as faithfully as they presently are.

### **C. Be Aware (vs. 33-34):**

1. Said – Peter responds like Peter does, openly expressing his opinion.
2. Lord – Even though Peter disagrees with Christ, Peter recognizes that Christ has all authority and power and is in control of all that will take place daily.
3. He is ready to go – Peter states that is fully and continuously prepared to move forward in whatever direction Christ chooses even if it includes prison and death.

a) First, with enthusiastic emphasis: “With *Thee* I am ready.” The impulsive reply is thoroughly characteristic. As at the feet-washing (Jn. 13:6, 8) he has more confidence in his own feelings than in Christ’s word; but this version of the utterance is less boastful than that in Mt. 26:33 and Mk. 14:29.<sup>[10]</sup>

4. He is ready to go – How little do we know what we are prepared for when it relates to the spiritual world? This is why we must totally trust God when He seeks to teach us what is going on. Paul approaches this by saying, “in his weakness, he is made strong.” (2 Corinthians 12:10)

a) Peter’s self-confident boasting is a warning to us that none of us really knows his own heart (Jer. 17:9) and that we can fail *in the point of our greatest strength*. Abraham’s greatest strength was his faith, and yet his faith failed him when he went down to Egypt and lied about Sarah (Gen. 12:10–13:4). Moses’ strength was in his meekness (Num. 12:3), yet he lost his temper, spoke rashly with his lips, and was not

allowed to enter Canaan (Num. 20). Peter was a brave man, but his courage failed him and he denied his Lord three times. “Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall” (1 Corinthians 10:12, NKJV). [\[11\]](#)

5. I say to you – Christ repeatedly spoke to Peter about what will occur.

a) He knew the failure impending because of Peter’s overconfidence; yet he would not relinquish him, nor depose him from his position of leadership. [\[12\]](#)

6. Deny - Peter is going to, once and for all, emphatically reject ever having any association with Christ. He is going to be very forceful when he does this.

a) However, He assured Peter that in spite of Satan’s desire to sift the disciples (you is pl. in the Gr.) like wheat (i.e., to put them through difficult times), Peter’s faith would not fail. He would be restored (turned back), and would be the leader of the disciples (i.e., the leader of the group of brothers). Peter protested, thinking that he was strong, stating that he would even go to prison or to death for Jesus. [\[13\]](#)

7. That he knows Christ – Peter is going to disconnect from ever having a full divine knowledge of Christ completely and utterly. He would also claim he totally has never even spent time around him.

8. That he knows Christ – When Satan can influence us (in the case of Peter, he uses fear), like he did so many others,, including Eve, to no longer trust in what God promises to do. His influence can be that powerful. We must learn to trust God’s Word no matter how convinced we may be that we are right.

---

- [1] Butler, T. C. (2000). [\*Luke\*](#) (Vol. 3, p. 370). Broadman & Holman Publishers.
- [2] Stein, R. H. (1992). [\*Luke\*](#) (Vol. 24, pp. 549–550). Broadman & Holman Publishers.
- [3] Keener, C. S. (1993). [\*The IVP Bible background commentary: New Testament\*](#) (Lk 22:28–30). InterVarsity Press.
- [4] Arnold, C. E. (2002). [\*Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary: Matthew, Mark, Luke\*](#) (Vol. 1, p. 484). Zondervan.
- [5] Stein, R. H. (1992). [\*Luke\*](#) (Vol. 24, p. 550). Broadman & Holman Publishers.
- [6] Arnold, C. E. (2002). [\*Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary: Matthew, Mark, Luke\*](#) (Vol. 1, p. 484). Zondervan.
- [7] Butler, T. C. (2000). [\*Luke\*](#) (Vol. 3, p. 371). Broadman & Holman Publishers.
- [8] Hughes, R. B., & Laney, J. C. (2001). [\*Tyndale concise Bible commentary\*](#) (p. 456). Tyndale House Publishers.
- [9] Arnold, C. E. (2002). [\*Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary: Matthew, Mark, Luke\*](#) (Vol. 1, p. 484). Zondervan.
- [10] Plummer, A. (1896). [\*A critical and exegetical commentary on the Gospel according to S. Luke\*](#) (p. 504). T&T Clark International.
- [11] Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [\*The Bible exposition commentary\*](#) (Vol. 1, p. 267). Victor Books.
- [12] Pfeiffer, C. F., & Harrison, E. F., eds. (1962). [\*The Wycliffe Bible Commentary: New Testament\*](#) (Lk 22:31). Moody Press.
- [13] Martin, J. A. (1985). [\*Luke\*](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, pp. 259–260). Victor Books.