

BETHANKFUL

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Luke 22:22 And truly the Son of man goeth, as it was determined: but woe unto that man by whom he is betrayed!

Luke 22:23 And they began to enquire among themselves, which of them it was that should do this thing.

Luke 22:24 And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest.

Luke 22:25 And he said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors.

Luke 22:26 But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve.

Luke 22:27 For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? is not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth.

Luke 22:28 Ye are they which have continued with me in my temptations.

Luke 22:29 And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me;

Luke 22:30 That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Luke 22:31 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:

Luke 22:32 But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

- **When sin is exposed, it should bring a healthy fear to others so they will forsake their own sin. *1 Tim. 5:20 Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.***
- **Jesus exposed the sin of betrayal so that the others would learn that it doesn't matter who you are or how good you are in this life, evil is always present. *Rom. 7:21 I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.***
- **As we attempt to live righteous, jealousy and envy will always enter certain ones around us in order to discourage us and ultimately destroy us. *John 13:2 And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him;***



- **We must be careful not to allow the flaws of those that harm us to make us feel better than they are. *Gal. 6:1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.***
- **Just because we are stronger in some areas doesn't mean we are better than them overall. We are all flawed and need the grace of God. *Rom. 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:***
- **The disciples of Jesus felt they were above betrayal, however in the latter days, most of them betrayed Christ. Pride always comes before a fall. *Prov. 18:12 Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honour is humility.***



- **Once Peter lifted himself up in pride, Christ saw the devil's request for him and warned him. *Prov. 16:18 Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.***
- **Living for the opinions of others is the catalyst for the enemy to fill our hearts with pride and make us compromise just to keep up appearances. *Prov. 29:25 The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.***
- **The devil begins to sift us when we are lifted up in pride. If we remain unrepentant, he will sift us until there is nothing left to salvage. *Prov. 29:23 A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.***



SUMMARY

Wheat sifting is a vigorous process. In the days of Jesus, wheat had to be threshed (beaten on the floor) to loosen the grain from the chaff. It was then thrown in the air, so the lighter chaff would be blown off by the wind and the grains would fall to the ground. Now, just imagine what this process looks like in the life of a human being!

Peter's process to get rid of his selfish ambition would be a tough one. He would be openly rebuked by Christ for cutting off an ear, then he would deny Christ publicly and watch Him be crucified while remembering all of his broken promises and oaths he had made. But this was a necessary process that made him see who he really was, so he could repent!

The Bible says when these trials come, we should be thankful. We should thank God for loving us enough to want what's best for us. He lovingly removes the selfish ambition out of us so we can truly be who He desires us to be. Peter was restored and in turn, restored his brethren, including all of us that read his epistles today. Peter's sifting made him better and today it makes us all better. When we go through our sifting, we become better in order to help others become better.

1Pet. 3:14 But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;

1Pet. 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: