



**The Gospel According to Luke**  
**Wk. 107 After Dinner Talk pt2 "Good Intentions,**  
**Bad Consequences, & Saving Grace"**  
**By Pastor Jody May**

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**Luke 22:31-34 ESV**

<sup>31</sup> "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, <sup>32</sup> but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers." <sup>33</sup> Peter said to him, "Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death." <sup>34</sup> Jesus said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me."

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**Review:**

First, God sovereignly controls time and events to bring the true Passover Lamb, Jesus, to be the payment for sins to Jerusalem. God has manipulated time and its events to bring Jesus to this upper room so He could make some major revelations which wouldn't make sense to His boys until after His tortuous death and glorious resurrection.

We are looking at one of the most important days of all of human history, perhaps only coming in 2<sup>nd</sup> to the cross because this night defines what the cross would mean. This Last Passover became the first Communion and, in the morphing, and changing of this event, for all time, Jesus explains what the cross is all about.

Through our observation of this night, we said we are taking a closer look into how God's sovereignty works. We looked at the macro level for three weeks, the large chunks of time and the big scale events that God orchestrated to get Jesus to this moment. Then we embarked on a 2<sup>nd</sup> journey to look at a micro level in how God also works sovereignly through individuals and the troubles they bring to show us that Jesus does not only commands time and events but that He controls people, individuals to bring about His plans. **That means God's sovereignty is about Him being in total control of all things at all times even though He allows man to have free will.** Meaning we have a God that triumphs over the world through not only fallen nature but imperfect people, ensuring that all His plans for Salvation and Recreation will come about as He has desired and planned. Divine power on display!



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Now today we will see Jesus working not only through fallen people, specifically Peter, but through the Devil himself to bring about His will. First, though I want to introduce or make you **aware of an alternate narrative** that is circulating in our culture at this time that might make it hard for you to believe this fact...

**Intro:**

In culture the way one discovers the underneath current of subconscious thought is to review the story telling of the day in whatever form that may come in. Subconscious thought meaning, what does the majority of people believe about God, the world, good and evil, meaning of life, attitudes toward government, fears of death, and so forth. A good writer knows how to tap into that stream of thought and write a story based on the current beliefs of that day. Modern storytelling is now done through pictures where screen plays are written for movies and televised programming. That's why many times in our sermons I will reference a movie because it tells a story reflecting a current subconscious thought of the population.

I make this statement to point out that fictional writers / story tellers over the last 20 years have tipped their hat and have shown something that has either changed in Westernized thinking or someone is trying desperately hard to change the thinking in our culture. When Heather and I first got married a friend turned me onto this show called [\*Buffy the Vampire Slayer\*](#), (98-04) a story of a teenage girl and her friends that fought monsters in their suburban hometown. This show led the industry into making several shows of the same theme: **Angel (99-04), Charmed (98-06), Supernatural (05-20), Preacher (16-19), Good Omens (2019), Lucifer (18-21) Ash vs Evil (15-18).**

All of these shows portray a similar thought:

- The devil is real and most of the time he is equal in power to God.
- It is man's responsibility to fight him, to prove himself worthy of existence.
- God is either not present or He is afraid to fight or he does not care.
- Most recently the devil is not that bad and wants to help out against evil.



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All of those views are exactly **THE OPPOSITE** of what the scripture portrays as reality. The Bible is written to be the story that trumps all other stories, because it is factual as God's **auto-biography**, and its' age doesn't make it irrelevant but exactly the opposite. The things that it says still happen, the teachings are not just relevant but are accurate in its' depiction of life. Its' Wisdom, its' historical data, its' moral lessons, are impeccable and it has never been proven to have been in error. It took 1500 years to write, consisting of 66 books, written by over 30 (33) authors, all inspired by the Spirit of God. There is no disagreement in the doctrine of these words, they all agree on the attributes and truth of God, therefore within that book lies the sole authority of God for church and man. It reflects the manifested will of God which was to display Himself in the life of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, who was crucified and risen from the dead, witnessed by over 500 witnesses, has ascended into heaven, and will return when the Gospel has been preached to all nations, bringing in the full Kingdom of God with the a great tribulation, celebrated in victory by the supper of the Lamb with rewards of crowns for the saints and eternal death and judgement for those that chose not to accept these realities. **It is for this reason this church relies on the authority of scripture ALONE to tell her what to think, what to believe, how to live, and how to die even in the cause of martyrdom if need be.**

You should know that the Bible actually teaches us what to think about the devil, God's power over sin, death, and the world, and your role in all of that. So, when you watch a modern portrayal of perhaps what a culture is thinking about the drama of **Good vs Evil** today you can feel less fear, live with more confidence in your tomorrows, and be able to offer some real answers for your neighbor.

**Three different aspects of Jesus Triumphant over Trouble and Troublesome people that include fallen disciples and one terrible devil:**

**1. Trouble with the Devil and Jesus' Triumph over him.**

<sup>31</sup> "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat,



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Luke is the only Gospel that records the interaction with the Devil. Possibly because Luke is written for Gentiles and not Jews. Traditional Jewish people were trained or at least they were aware of the Torah and understood Satan's role in the world, not to trust Him, and more importantly God was His creator meaning **He owns him.**

Jesus obviously is aware of the devil's plot to scatter Jesus' disciples. If the devil is aware of Jesus' plan to die for sinners, then the last thing he wants are the disciples hanging around to see a resurrection. He wants them scattered, dispersed, and he wants it shown that they were wrong the choice in the first place:

**Zechariah 13:7**

*"Awake, O sword, against my shepherd,  
against the man who stands next to me,"  
declares the LORD of hosts.*

*"Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered;  
I will turn my hand against the little ones.*

In this prophecy it shows what would be happening to Jesus' disciples. It also shows that God uses a sword, to injure the shepherd, to scatter His sheep. Showing the intent of the original Gospel in Genesis 3:15.

*Eve, He will bruise your offspring's heel, but you serpent, He will crush your head.*  
**God ordaining the role of the serpent and God ordaining the triumph of the Son.**  
God is using the serpent's initial deceiving to bring about the ultimate glorification of God, His victory through love for an undeserving people.

The devil has always been at God's disposal, he has never worked outside of God's will, never doing anything he didn't allow him to do, he always moves according to God's will and in doing so always gets the short end of the deal because his actions against God always bring God's glorification. **That which Lucifer sought to steal from God, in turn God makes him give Him more!**



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One of the oldest stories in the Bible, Job, teaches that even the devil must report to God to give an account of his workings in the world. In Job 1 Satan approaches God accusing God that the only reason Job worships God is because He is rewarded for good behavior to which God answers:

**Job 1:12 ESV**

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.

God gives the ok, and also controls what happens. The Devil kills the family and destroys his income. Still Job doesn't curse God. Again, the devil accuses Job of not cursing God because he's a man more concerned about his own skin, so God says,

**Job 2:6 ESV**

"Behold, he is in your hand; only spare his life."

Well, you know the story, he gets boils all over him and is sick as a dog, but he does not die. Then he is berated by his friends for countless chapters telling him it has to be you, it's your fault. In the end Job is made to understand that God, not only owns the devil but He owns him. The devil is made to look foolish, Job is restored and rewarded, and God's name is revered/glorified. In all of those actions nothing done was unrighteous, nor unjustified.

**Now we are seeing Satan is not our friend, he is not good, he is not misunderstood, but he uses you in his war to make God look bad, causing you harm, to lie to us, to get us to walk away. AND he does it to you too...**

**Rev. 12:10 ESV – "the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God."**

Satan accuses us night and day against God. But we can celebrate, and we can rejoice that Jesus is constantly at our defense, that He is constantly fighting for us, that He is only allowing, what He declares is necessary. Rejoice for Jesus is our



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constant mediator, defender, friend and shepherd. The shepherd was struck but He has crushed his head, and this is how He achieved Triumph for us:<sup>1</sup>

### **1. His Silent Years**

Jesus defeated Satan in His silent years. Though He gave no sermons, performed no miracles, and was unknown to the public, He lived all these years without sin, doing everything that was pleasing to God the Father. At His baptism, the Father said of Jesus.

*"and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." - **Matthew 3:17 ESV.** - The Father was well-pleased with His Son.*

### **2. The Temptation**

Jesus did not succumb to the temptation of the Devil (Matthew 4:1-11). Though Satan tested Jesus in various ways, there was no giving in to these temptations. Scripture says of Jesus:

*For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. - **Hebrews 4:15 ESV***

### **3. Throughout His Public Ministry**

Jesus was tempted during His public ministry - by those who believed in Him, such as Simon Peter (Matthew 16:22,23 – *'you shall not die Lord'*), and by those who did not believe in Him, such as His brothers (John 7:3-5 – *'go reveal yourself'*) and the religious rulers (John 8:6 – *'is she guilty of adultery'*).

All of these attempts failed. At the end of His public ministry, Jesus was still without sin.

### **4. At the Cross**

Satan was also defeated by Jesus at the cross. Shortly before His death, Jesus said:

*"the ruler of this world is judged" - **John 16:11 ESV.***

### **5. Resurrection**

Not only did Jesus give His life for the sins of the world, He rose from the dead-breaking Satan's power over fallen humanity.

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<sup>1</sup> Don Stewart, "In what ways was did Jesus achieve victory over the Devil", *Blue Letter Bible*, [https://www.blueletterbible.org/faq/don\\_stewart/don\\_stewart\\_85.cfm](https://www.blueletterbible.org/faq/don_stewart/don_stewart_85.cfm), Web, Feb. 6, 2021.



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Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, - **Hebrews 2:14 ESV.**

#### **6. Lives of Believers**

The Bible says that believers look forward to the time when Satan's defeat will be for all to see. We shall be His instruments of His vengeance.

The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. - **Romans 16:20 ESV.**

#### **7. Second Coming**

When Christ comes again, He will have Satan bound and placed into the pit.

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. <sup>2</sup>And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, - **Revelation 20:1,2 ESV.**

#### **8. The Lake of Fire - The Ultimate Judgment**

Eventually, Satan will be cast into the lake of fire, marking the final end to his inglorious career.

and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. - **Revelation 20:10 ESV.**

**Everything the Devil has done and everything he will ever do has already been overcome by our Lord, there is no scheme that He can construct that has not already been predetermined to fail.** If Jesus can do this to a powerful being then what trouble could a doubting man bring him?

#### **2. Trials of Peter and Jesus' Testing of His leader.**

##### **Luke 22:32-34 ESV**

"but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail... <sup>33</sup> Peter said to him, "Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death." <sup>34</sup> Jesus said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me."



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Notice Jesus doesn't say "No" when Satan asked to sift Peter just as the Father didn't tell Satan "No" when he wanted to go after Job (Job 1:6-12 & 2:1-8). Satan is **owned** by God. Because He is owned by God, He is used in the lives of His followers to make them more like Him, to become Holy, to become a light in this world.

Sifting (v.31) is when you take wheat and throw it in the air, and the wheat is separated from the unnecessary parts of the plant. It is struck hard on the ground and thrown into the wind for the chaff, the unusable part to be blown away. *Peter, you are going get the smack kicked out of you. You will fail, shown by your denial of even knowing me, but I have prayed for you that your faith will not fail.*

**The important thing in our life is not walking out of our trials unbruised, unscarred, unblemished **what's important is that our faith remains intact!****

In this moment I want you to realize Jesus' confidence in His prayers, as recorded in John 16 & 17, and the authority He will gain through His victory on the cross. In Matthews' account of this same moment after Jesus informed Peter of his future failures HE dropped some Gospel news: *'But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee'* (Chp. 26:32). Peter, you are going to pull through, I prayed for it, **your faith will hold**, I will see you on the road!

**What is the benefit of sifting? To get rid of our BOASTING...**

Peter's problem you see was the same as what got them into an argument the week earlier. It was his pride, he was the leader, he wanted to show his **identity was more secure in his bravado than in Jesus' strength**. In order to lead the church, we see in the first 11 chapters of Acts, in order to set an example and die a martyr's death, Peter would have to be changed, he would need to see his strength fail, and he would need to know the restoring power of Jesus' love.

It is the same way with Paul as he gets sifted as well:





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**2 Cor. 12:7-10 ESV**

<sup>7</sup> So to keep me from **becoming conceited** because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a **messenger of Satan** to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. <sup>8</sup> Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. <sup>9</sup> But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. <sup>10</sup> For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. **For when I am weak, then I am strong.**

Paul unfolds for us the reality behind our sifting, behind our thorns. God sent a servant of the devil to harass him, in which Paul did the right thing he prayed in faith for it to be removed. Paul sees the weakness in himself as Job and Peter both saw theirs and saw how it is not shed easily.

Paul learns as we all should, sifting has made him stronger for now he relies not on what was easy to build his identity in, **but he depends on Christ and now Christ gets the credit for Paul's work**, not Paul. **Paul can't boast...** This is at the heart of Paul's theology, it is at the heart of the Reformers' Theology, it is at the **heart of our theology**:

**Ephesians 2:9 ESV**

<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no **one may boast**.

We are sifted by this world and we are sifted by the armies of darkness, for they are constantly accusing us against the Lord. **Let today be your day to fight for the fame of your God, for He is with you, He has gone before you, and He wants you to pass your test, and He wants you to please the Father as He has pleased Him!** The prophet Jeremiah shows us what this looks like, **proper boasting and pleasing God**, before he let the secret out about a new heart; the in which we would be able to do it (Jer. 31:31-33).

**Jeremiah 9:23-24 ESV**



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<sup>23</sup> Thus says the LORD: “**Let not** the wise man **boast** in his **wisdom**, let not the mighty man **boast** in his **might**, let not the rich man **boast** in his **riches**, <sup>24</sup> but let him who boasts **boast** in this, that he **understands** and **knows me**, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things **I delight**, declares the LORD.”

A Person who has been sifted, who has been tested who has been tried is someone who has stopped boasting in what they do, has stopped thinking they are owed anything for their works or gifts, has stopped comparing themselves to other brothers and sisters, and they now **BOAST** alone in Christ, knowing where their strength lies and from whom their identity comes and that **this is what our God delights in**. It is when one of His children comes to know the worthiness of their Savior but that **only comes after sifting**. But take heart, He never allows Satan to take their Faith for **the Devil cannot take something that God gives...**

What Jesus prays for He gets, because He has ultimately pleased God through His sifting and look what He has prayed for us:

**John 17:15 ESV**

<sup>15</sup> I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.

Jesus knew Peter would make it, and He knows all His true disciples are going to make it, because He's done the work, He's defeated Satan, and lastly here's a clue as to what He expects from Peter and what He expects from us, after our failuers.

**3. Life's Trials, Testing, and Troubles are for the Tutoring of other Believers.**

**Luke 22:32b ESV**

“And when you (Peter) have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”

There's not much left to say at this point, you should now see how all of this plays out. Again, we could preach another sermon on the restoration of Jesus in our lives, but we don't have that time today. In John 21:15-25 Jesus is the one that



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gets Peter to turn again, **He calls him again a second time**. The first time was to come and learn to fish for men, and if you have ever done fishing btw you know that comes with lots of failure. The second time Peter was on a boat just like when Jesus met him the first time. Instead of getting Peter fish in his net He tells Peter what to do with the fish that He will catch (sheep). Peter, you are going to be successful because I am going to be with you now always, through the helper.

*Peter take care of my sheep.* After his sifting Peter's boasting is over. In Acts we see a man that has gone through the fire. We see a man weeks later stand up in the middle of Jerusalem not only not denying Jesus, but accusing those that put Him to death, and calling for them to put their faith in Jesus for forgiveness of sin, claiming He was God, and by that 3,000 souls were added to the church that day (Acts 2:14-41). Peter was called by miracle of a large net of fish and Peter was sent out by hauling in a large net of souls. **And the brothers were thus strengthened...**

**The disciples saw their leader betray their Lord, they saw him broken, they saw him restored, and they heard him stop boasting in himself and heard him boast in Christ, and they saw the glory of God revealed through the work of their leader. They were strengthened and they joined in the fight and each one went to their own glorious death for the cause of Jesus Christ.**

Family, if you have not failed miserably in following Jesus, you most likely will. Why? So, you can stop boasting about yourself and what you do well. Will you survive it? Yes, if you truly belong to Him. And when you have turned again strengthen your brothers and sisters.

- **Sifting is where we discover our faith is real.**
- **Sifting is where we discover how hard Jesus has hold of us.**
- **Sifting is where we discover Jesus has a better calling for us.**

**May we all come to know the power of Jesus' restoration in our lives, may we all be strengthened again today by His Words.**



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**PRAYER**

**COMMUNION**

**BENEDICTION**

The Heidelberg Catechism, written in 1563, originated in one of the few pockets of Calvinistic faith in the Lutheran and Catholic territories of Germany. Conceived originally as a teaching instrument to promote religious unity in the Palatinate, the catechism soon became a guide for preaching as well. It is a remarkably warm-hearted and personalized confession of faith, eminently deserving of its popularity among Reformed churches to the present day.<sup>2</sup>

**Heidelberg Catechism**

**Q. What is your only comfort in life and death?**

**A.** That I am not my own,<sup>1</sup>  
but belong with body and soul,  
both in life and in death,<sup>2</sup>  
to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ.<sup>3</sup>  
He has fully paid for all my sins  
with his precious blood,<sup>4</sup>  
and has set me free  
from all the power of the devil.<sup>5</sup>  
He also preserves me in such a way<sup>6</sup>  
that without the will of my heavenly Father  
not a hair can fall from my head;<sup>7</sup>  
indeed, all things must work together  
for my salvation.<sup>8</sup>  
Therefore, by his Holy Spirit

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.crcna.org/sites/default/files/HeidelbergCatechism.pdf>



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he also assures me  
of eternal life <sup>9</sup>  
and makes me heartily willing and ready  
from now on to live for him. <sup>10</sup>

- 1.1 Cor 6:19, 20.
- 2.Rom 14:7-9.
- 3.1 Cor 3:23; Tit 2:14.
- 4.1 Pet 1:18, 19; 1 Jn 1:7; 2:2.
- 5.Jn 8:34-36; Heb 2:14, 15; 1 Jn 3:8.
- 6.Jn 6:39, 40; 10:27-30; 2 Thess 3:3; 1 Pet 1:5.
- 7.Mt 10:29-31; Lk 21:16-18.
- 8.Rom 8:28.
- 9.Rom 8:15, 16; 2 Cor 1:21, 22; 5:5; Eph 1:13, 14.
- 10.Rom 8:14.