

Discussion Guide: Jesus is FOR losers  
Luke 22:31-32; Rich Vincent 2/23/03

*“Simon, Simon, behold, satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”*

**The rage of satan**

He wants to violently shake us, tear us up, and destroy us  
satan had to *ask* permission. He does not have unlimited power  
He asked to sift *all* [vs. 31 “you” is plural] of the disciples

**The concern of Jesus**

“Simon, Simon!...”—repetitive address  
Jesus prayed for him...  
NOT to have his trial taken away  
NOT that Peter would handle his trial perfectly  
But that Peter would turn back and strengthen the brothers

**The Failure of Peter**

\*\*Peter’s strength [his zealotry] kept him from believing that he would fall  
Peter disregarded Jesus’ warning. “Even if all fall away, I will not” [Mark 14:29]  
God has a wonderful plan; even when Peter fails  
Peter can then make good use out of a bad circumstance. He can later  
identify with his brothers and comfort them, because he is also a loser!

**Significance:**

- 1) We have the same warning—I Peter 5:8
- 2) Take heart—Christ intercedes
- 3) God has a plan for our failures—3,000 were later converted upon his preaching

**Discussion Questions:**

The rage of satan:

- 1) How does satan “sift” a believer?
- 2) What can we do to resist him?
- 3) Why would God allow satan to “sift” a believer?
- 4) How does knowing that the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour [I Peter 5:8] affect your daily life?

The concern of Jesus:

- 1) Jesus intercedes for us! Describe how this comforts you.
- 2) Share a testimony about how Jesus comforted you through a trial.
- 3) Why would Jesus not pray to have the trial removed?

The failure of Peter:

- 1) Have you ever denied Jesus in your public life? What happened?
- 2) How do you apply the exhortation “So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall” [I Cor. 10:12] to your life?
- 3) Discuss how God has worked in your life *through* your failures.