

Don't Fall Apart

(Luke 22:31-46)

Introduction

1. [Series] Resonate: Tune into Jesus' frequency to experience the power of the gospel & impact the culture.
2. When you're hit by quakes in life or faith, do you fall apart?
 - a. Jesus' final week: (Sun) welcomed into Jerusalem; (Mon) clears the Temple of sin & false worship; (Tue & Wed) teaches at the Temple re: the Kingdom of God & His authority.
 - b. (Thu) Jesus instructs His followers how to remain faithful to Him, and to be His Kingdom community when He's gone.

Prepare to be sifted [Luke 22:31-34]

1. [31-32] Satan prepares to assault Jesus' followers
 - a. [31] "Sift you like wheat": To violently shake apart; cause to fall to pieces.
 - b. Satan seeks to sift Jesus' followers
 - i. [31] Satan demands to have all of "you" (plural): All the disciples of Jesus
 - ii. [32] Particularly "you" (singular), Simon Peter: If he can take down the influencer, the rest will be discouraged.
 - c. [32] Jesus' response: To pray that Simon Peter's faith will not fail.
 - d. Issue: Satan wants to shake apart Peter & the disciples' faith, so that they will turn away from Jesus (as Judas has).
2. Simon Peter's impending temptation/trial
 - a. [33] Peter makes a bold, emotional claim of loyalty.
 - b. [34] Jesus' response: Prophetic truth about Peter's impending denials.
 - i. Grace: But Jesus also predicts Peter will repent & be restored to strengthen others in their faith, despite turning away from Jesus this day (cf. John 21:15-19).
 - c. Lesson: Those who follow Jesus will be sifted by Satan.
 - d. Satan uses suffering & circumstances to shake our faith, and then tempts us to turn away from Jesus.
3. Application: What does it take to get you to turn away from Jesus?
 - a. When things go bad, the temptation is to turn from Jesus, so when we need Him most, we're most likely to walk away.
 - b. When trials of life come, do you turn to Jesus as your first option or last?
 - c. How is Satan using sin, deception, distraction, division, devastating circumstances, & self-sufficiency to get you to turn away from Jesus?
 - d. During painful trials, if you are not turning to Jesus, you're turning away from Him.

Be spiritually armed [Luke 22:35-38]

1. Prepare yourselves
 - a. [35] In the past (Luke 9-10), Jesus sent the disciples out without needing provisions.
 - b. [36a] But now, they will have to provide for themselves.
 - i. Not that God won't provide, but Jesus will be physically absent & there will be opposition/persecution.
 - ii. Issue: Be ready; prepare & equip yourselves.
2. [36b] Each will need a "sword", to be equipped for self-defense.
 - a. [37] Jesus prophetically reminds them He will suffer & die for mankind's sin, fulfilling Scriptures (cf. Isa 53:12).

- b. When He's gone, His followers will be persecuted.
 - i. They don't have to prepare words for defense (cf. Luke 21:12-18).
 - ii. Nor should they attack with physical weapons, which Jesus will rebuke (cf. Luke 22:51; Acts: the Church's non-violent response to persecution).
- c. [38] The disciples do not understand Jesus' meaning, procuring 2 literal swords.
 - i. Jesus rebukes them: "Enough" of this talk about actual swords.
 - ii. Jesus is not saying: "This is a sufficient amount of swords", as he commanded all of them to be armed, but they only have 2 swords for the 11 remaining disciples.
- d. Jesus is instructing them to be spiritually armed/prepared to defend against Satan's assault & temptation.

Constantly pray to endure with Jesus [Luke 22:39-46]

1. How do we prepare & defend ourselves to prevent falling away from Jesus?
 - a. [38-40] Jesus takes the disciples to a lonely place to pray.
 - b. The key to defending themselves: [40,46] "Pray that you many not enter into temptation."
 - i. This warning is repeated twice by Jesus (at the beginning & end of the passage) for emphasis.
 - ii. "*Proseuchesthe*" [present imperative]: A constant, consistent action of prayer
 - c. Prayer that seeks God for strength, actively expressing our need for God & constantly depending on Him.
2. Jesus prays as He is tempted to turn away from God.
 - a. He is temptable as we are, yet without sin (cf. Heb 4:15).
 - b. Jesus faces His greatest trial: To be humiliated, rejected, tortured, murdered at a cross, becoming our sin, separated from His Father.
 - c. Jesus faces His greatest temptation by Satan: To turn from His Father this final night before His suffering.
3. Jesus provide a mode for prayer when facing trial & temptation:
 - a. [42a] Jesus is not disobedient or rebellious; He's honest with His Dad.
 - i. Jesus did not cheat at being human; He lay aside His Godhood/divine nature, facing life like us as a human who relies on the power of the Holy Spirit
 - ii. He expresses very human emotion to His Dad: "The reality is, I don't want to suffer, die, be separated from You."
 - b. [42b] Jesus trusts & submits to His Dad's will.
 - i. Remembering how good our Heavenly Father is helps us to trust that His sovereign will is good, right, the best, so that we can willingly submit & obey Him.
 - ii. This is the key turning point in prayer.
 - iii. In pain, reflect on God's goodness, faithfulness in the past, holiness, sacrifice, His love for you.
 - c. [43] Jesus receives strength & comfort from His Father.
 - d. [44] As the trial/temptation gets harder, Jesus perseveres & prays even more passionately.
 - i. Sometimes, even after receiving strength/comfort, the trial/temptation get worse; persevere in prayer.
4. Pray & rise.
 - a. [45a] Jesus rose from prayer: His circumstances haven't changed, but His strength & peace from God have.
 - b. [45b] He finds the disciples asleep, not understanding the importance of this moment & prayer.
 - c. [46] He warns them again to rise & pray against trials/temptations to turn away.
5. Application: Like Jesus, some of you have terrible burdens/hurts, tempted not to turn to God, to trust & rely on Him.
 - a. Like the disciples, some of you don't have burdens, & do not see the sifting ahead. Be ready, rise & pray.

Conclusion [Luke 22:47-62]

1. Victory in the midst of seeming defeat
 - a. [47-62] Judas will betray, Peter will deny, the disciples will run, Satan will laugh, thinking he has victory.
 - b. The disciples were defeated by their lack of prayer. But our Lord triumphed over His enemy & temptation through prayer.
 - c. Though the deadly serpent strikes His heel, He will crush its head & be made sin for us that we might become the righteousness of God through Him (cf. Gen 3:15).
 - d. Either fall on your knees in prayer, or fall apart when sifting comes.