

**Upper Room Discourse - Satan's attacks on Peter a study for the College and Career Class for
Gulf Coast Baptist Church 1/8/23 by Steve Thomas**

- I. Christ's prediction proves true as Satan unleashes his whole arsenal upon Peter over the next several days. .
 - A. The attacks were most likely already underway when Christ gave this warning to Peter.
 1. Luke 22:14-16 On the way to the garden, the disciples were arguing about who among them would be counted the greatest. Jesus responded with some teaching on being a servant leader (22:26-27)
 2. Matt 26:33 Peter exhibited **pride** when hearing Jesus's words of how all the disciples will be scattered and offended. Jesus responded with a clear prophecy that Peter would deny him three times that night.
 - B. For the next several days, Peter was under intense Satanic attack
 1. Mark 14:33-38 Christ gave Peter an opportunity to gain strength through communication with God.
 - a) He asked the three to tarry here, watch (stay awake), and pray (Luke 22:40).
 - b) Peter was tempted with **spiritual idleness** here as he slept instead of watching and praying with the Son. The disciples were not strong enough to defend against this attack (Mark 14:38). Being willing and ready was not enough. The flesh is too weak to stand against this attack.
 2. John 18:10, Matt 26:51-54 Peter **acted independently from God** in his attack on the high priest's servant. Jesus corrected him and told him that this action was not necessary or appropriate. He was in control of this situation and could have called help from legions of spirit beings. Jesus was in full submission to His Father (John 18:11). He was willing to drink the cup that the Father had given Him. Peter's attempts to fight back were a sign that he was not so submissive.
 3. Mark 14:50; Matt 26:56 Peter joined the rest of the disciples, giving into the desire of **spiritual cowardice** as they forsook Jesus and fled.
 4. Luke 22:57; Matt 26:69; Mark 14:66; John 18:25 Peter's denial of Christ is well documented in all four of the gospels. Peter and John followed Christ "afar off" and gained entrance into the place where the trial was being held. Peter gave in to the lust of **lying** and **corrupt communication** as he communicated with the individuals surrounding Christ's trial.
 5. Luke 22:61-61; Matt 26:75; Mark 14:72 Peter receives a look from Christ and runs away weeping bitterly, giving in to **discouragement and dissatisfaction**. Luke says he burst into tears, Mark reports that he began to weep, and was in a continued state.
 6. Luke 24:1; John 20:3-10 Peter reacts with **doubt concerning spiritual things**, even though he was hearing something he had been expressly told by Christ no less than 3 times. John records the fact that he was the first disciple to believe that Jesus had risen from the dead As Robertson says, Peter had sight, John had insight.
 7. Luke 24:34; I Corinthians 15:5 These passages are fascinating. Peter seems to have had a one on one meeting with Christ. What transpired in this meeting we can only guess. But it did not alleviate Peter's fear, because he is still behind closed doors. Nor has it erased his willingness to leave the ministry and go back

to his nets to fish. Christ speaks directly to Peter at the appointed meeting and asks the piercing questions about Peter's love for the Savior, still apart from this private meeting.

8. John 20:19 Peter and the other disciples were shut in for **worry and fear** of the Jews. This should have been a time for praising and victorious celebration. But the followers of Christ are hidden behind closed doors. The gladness felt by the disciples here replaces the gloom that has settled on them since Christ's death.
9. John 21:3; Luke 5:5 Peter declares to the group, "I am going to fish". Christ repeats a miracle that he had performed years earlier when they forsook the nets to follow Christ, filling their nets with fish. Peter needed this reminder that this occupation held nothing for him. God had other plans for his future. Peter seems to continue to be reeling from the **discouragement and bitterness** he had from his denial.
10. 1 Peter becomes a **busy body** here, involving himself in John's future where he has no business. He is corrected by Christ here. Christ, who has to repeat the command from Matt 4:19 to follow him, tells Peter to basically mind his own business concerning John's method of death.

C. Peter is a different man after Pentecost.

1. He shows **leadership** in replacing Judas (Acts 1:15) and delivers a powerful message absent the cowardice that was seen just a few weeks earlier (Acts 2:15).
2. Although not totally absent his spiritual attacks, this intense season of attacks seems to have passed.
 - a) Peter was able to **discern** the lies of Ananias and Saphira were from Satan (Acts 5:3).
 - b) Peter was tempted with spiritual cowardice by being threatened (Acts 5:29) and discouragement by being beaten (Acts 5:41), but his response was **spirit-filled and courageous**. The disciples did not allow the threats and beatings to keep them from God's desirous will.