

# The Passion of Jesus Christ

Back two and three Sunday mornings ago, I spoke about “The Threshing Floor,” and the process that everybody goes through to separate the “wheat from the chaff” (a.k.a. “the valuable from the worthless”). This process is also a proving ground for what lies within us that must be dealt with, usually in repentance and seeking the Lord. Tonight I want to begin by looking at the near approach of Jesus’ passionate death on our behalf. It’s not meant to make you uncomfortable, but to remind us of the extreme price that our Lord paid to bring us free from sin, Hell, death & the grave, plus the countless blessings of eternal life in relationship with the Trinity both now & forever.

After the Last Supper, inaugurating the New Covenant in Jesus’ blood, our Lord’s disciples dispute among themselves as to who is the greatest (**Luke 22:24 TPT**). This followed their questioning which one among them would betray their Lord (**v. 23**). So Jesus interrupts their argument to school them, even to the last minutes of His life, about the Kingdom of God & what their & our life’s attitude must be like (**Lk 22:25-27 TPT**).

**Luke 22:28-30 TPT.** **Jesus then tells them about their destiny**, which they had argued about. *“Because you have stood with me through all my trials and ordeals, 29. I give you your destiny: I am promising you the kingdom realm that the Father has promised Me. 30 We will celebrate in this kingdom and you will feast with Me at My table. And each of you will be given a throne, twelve thrones in all, and you will be made rulers on thrones to judge the tribes of Israel. “*

Jesus must separate from within us the holy attitudes from the vile & profane ones, such as selfishness that generates pride, domination of others, greed, self-preservation, etc. Painful but necessary!

**Jesus Prophecies Peter’s Sifting by Satan – A Major Part of Jesus’s Suffering**

**Luke 22:31-34 AMPC** *“Simon, Simon (Peter), listen! Satan has asked excessively that [all of] you be given up to him [out of the power and keeping of God], that he might sift [all of] you like grain, [Job 1:6-12 AMPC; Amos 9:9 AMPC* “For behold I will command, and I will sift the house of Israel among all nations and cause it to move to and fro as grain is sifted in a sieve, yet shall not the least kernel fall upon the earth and be lost [from My sight].” Vv. 11-12 *“In that day Will I raise up the tabernacle of David, the fallen hut or booth, and close up its breaches; and I will raise up its ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old, 12. That they may possess the remnant of Edom and of all the nations that are called by My name, says the Lord Who does this”* **SFLB note on Amos 9:9-15** speaks of, *“Here its blessings and not its punishments are emphasized.”* It speaks of “The restoration of Israel. In light of James quote of Amos 9:11 & 12 in Acts 15:16-17, the fulfillment of Amos 9:11-15 can be seen in the church. The returned remnant in the time of Ezra and Nehemiah will also fulfill Amos’s words.” Notice in the following verses that Jesus speaks to Peter of our Lord’s intercession & restoration of Peter, as well as Peter’s continued assignment to *“strengthen and establish your brethren.”* **SFLB note on v. 15,** The restoration and blessing is usually associated with repentance on the part of God’s people. No mention of that is made here as Amos stresses God’s mercy and grace. The possession of the land is part of the promise to Abraham and his descendants, and its fulfillment is based on the unconditional blessing of God.”

I bring this up because, in the following v. 33, Jesus makes no mention of repentance on Peter’s part, though he certainly felt great sorrow as found in **Luke 22:62 TPT:** *“Peter burst into tears, ran off from the crowd, and wept bitterly.”* **TPT:** “It is not just our sin that causes us to weep. It is seeing the Savior whom we have sinned against that brings our tears.” Have you wept over your sins lately as you gazed on your loving Savior? Let’s seek Him!

**Luke 22:32-34 AMPC** *“But I have prayed especially for you [Peter], that your [own] faith may not fail; and when you yourself have turned again, strengthen and establish your brethren. 33. And [Simon Peter] said to Him, “Lord, I am ready to go with You both to prison and to death.” 34. But Jesus said, “I tell you, Peter, before a [single] cock crow this day, you will three times [utterly] deny that you know Me.”* In Luke 22:54-61 Peter did just as our Lord prophesied. Even as Peter experienced the accuracy of our Lord’s prophetic words for his denial, Peter also would need to remind himself of our Lord’s words for his restoration. **We too!**

**Selwyn Hughes** *“The Inner Stances,”* March 27, **Psa. 37:28 HCSB** *“For the Lord loves justice and will not abandon His faithful ones. They are kept safe forever.”*

“Why is it that while the same things can happen to us all, they may not have the same effect upon us all? The same thing happening to two different people may have entirely different effects. Why should this be so? It depends not so much on the circumstances, but on the “inner stances” – or, in other words, our inner attitudes. As someone has said, “What life **does** to us in the long run depends on what life **finds** in us.” Life’s blows can make some people irritable and bitter; others they sweeten and refine – the same events, but with opposite effects.

“The Gospels tell us that there were three crosses set up on Calvary on the first Good Friday. The same event happened to three different people, but look at the different results. One thief complained and blamed Jesus for not saving Himself and them; the other thief recognized his own unworthiness, repented of it, and found an open door to Paradise. Jesus, of course, saw it as the climax of His earthly achievements & made it the fulcrum on which He moved the world.

“What counts, therefore, is not so much what happens to us, but what we do with it. The same sunshine falling on two different plants can cause one to wither and die, while the other will blossom and flourish. And why? It all depends on the response the plants make. Although, of course, they both need water, one

plant is more suited to hot sunshine than the other and therefore responds with more life and growth, while the other shrivels up & dies.”

**Let's purpose now to live for Him & die for Him if called for!**