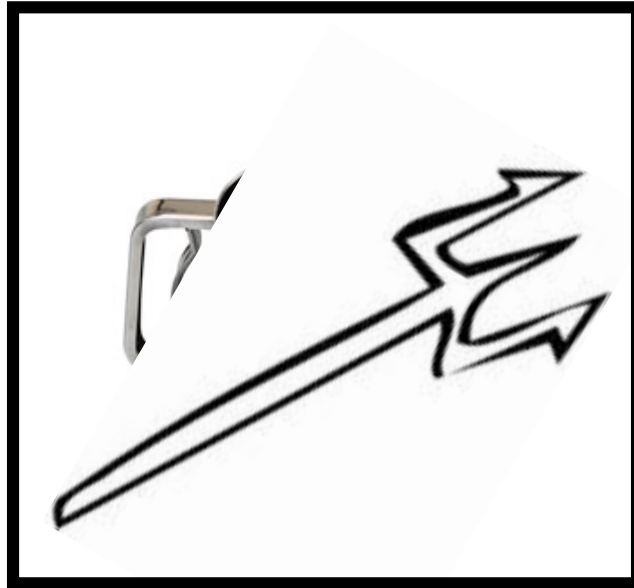


**"NOT SIFTED, BUT LIFTED"**



**LUKE 22:31-32a**

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**“NOT SIFTED, BUT LIFTED”**

LUKE 22:31-32A

**INTRODUCTION**

**ONE OF THE GREATEST TRAGEDIES THAT I KNOW OF IS TO MEET A PERSON WHO COULD HAVE BEEN SOMETHING GREAT.**

**THAT SUGGESTS THAT THEY COULD HAVE BEEN A GREAT DOCTOR, A GREAT LAWYER, A GREAT PREACHER, A GREAT TEACHER, A GREAT HUSBAND, A GREAT WIFE, A GREAT FRIEND, A GREAT STUDENT, A GREAT ATHLETE – ONLY TO FIND THEMSELVES EXISTING FAR BELOW THEIR POTENTIAL.**

**ILLUSTRATION**

**RECENTLY A YOUNG BASKETBALL PLAYER IN SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, SIGNED A PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL CONTRACT TO PLAY FOR A TEAM IN ISRAEL.**

**HE WAS HAILED WITH GREAT PROMISE AND SIGNED A CONTRACT WITH A GOAL IN MIND.**

**HIS PLAN WAS THAT HE WOULD PLAY A COUPLE OF YEARS IN ISRAEL AND THEN QUALIFY AS A FIRST ROUND DRAFT CHOICE IN THE NBA.**

**WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW IS THAT HE IS JUST 17 YEARS OF AGE AND INSTEAD OF DROPPING OUT OF COLLEGE, HE DROPPED OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL.**

**HE HAD PEOPLE AROUND HIM WHISPERING IN HIS EAR THAT HE HAD THE POTENTIAL TO BECOME THE NEXT MICHAEL JORDAN, EARVIN “MAGIC” JOHNSON, OR LABRON JAMES.**

**THE POSTSCRIPT TO HIS STORY IS THAT IN HIS FIRST PROFESSIONAL GAME HE SCORED ONE POINT. IN HIS SECOND GAME HE SCORED TWO POINTS. HE HASN'T SCORED OVER 10 POINTS IN A GAME.**

**HE'S ALREADY RUN THROUGH HIS CONTRACT MONEY OF JUST \$100,000 A YEAR. HE MISSED CAMP BECAUSE HE DIDN'T KNOW THAT YOU NEEDED A VISA TO TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF THE COUNTRY.**

**HIS COACH SAYS HE'S NOT READY AND LACKS THE RUDIMENTARY SKILLS OF A BASKETBALL PLAYER.**

**HIS TEAMMATES SAY HE'S MOODY AND DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH. HIS ROOMMATE HAS WALKED AWAY AND WILL NOT RETURN.**

**HE HAD POTENTIAL – BUT SOMETHING HAPPENED AND HE'S ALREADY LIVING FAR BENEATH HIS POTENTIAL.**

**I BELIEVE THAT GOD HAS SOMETHING VALUABLE PLACED INSIDE OF EVERY ONE.**

**EVERYONE HAS SOMETHING THAT IS UNIQUE, VALUABLE, INTEGRAL, AND SOME OF US CAN DO SOME THINGS THAT NO ONE ELSE CAN DO.**

**HOWEVER, AS GIFTED AS SOME OF US ARE – GOD PROVIDED IT, JESUS DIED FOR IT, THE HOLY SPIRIT ENERGIZES IT – THERE IS ALWAYS AT LEAST ONE PERSON WHO DOESN'T WANT YOU TO MAKE IT – AND THAT IS THE DEVIL!**

**YOU ALL HAVE HEARD OF THE DEVIL? THE DEVIL – LUCIFER; THE DEVIL – BEELZEBUB; THE DEVIL – THE GOD OF THIS WORLD, THE ARCHENEMY OF GOD HIMSELF;**

**THE DEVIL – THE UNEMPLOYED ANGEL; THE DEVIL – THE DIAMETRIC OPPOSITE OF GOD.**

**WHEN GOD SAYS I AM THE GREAT I AM, SATAN SAYS I AM THE GREAT I AM NOT.**

**THE DEVIL DOES NOT WANT YOU TO REACH YOUR GOAL, YOUR AIM, YOUR POTENTIAL – AND INSTEAD OF CELEBRATING WHAT GOD HAS PLACED IN YOU – HE WANTS TO DESTROY THAT VALUABLE ASSET WITHIN YOU AND HE WOULDN'T MIND KILLING YOU IN THE PROCESS!**

### **THE TEXT**

**OUR TEXT HAS JESUS DEALING WITH THE DISCIPLES DURING THE CELEBRATORY SEASON OF THE PASSOVER WHEN ALL OF ISRAEL WAS PREPARING TO REMEMBER THAT IT WAS THE BLOOD OVER THE DOORPOST THAT STOPPED THE DEATH ANGEL FROM DESTROYING THE FIRST BORN MALES WHILE ISRAEL WAS IN CAPTIVITY IN EGYPT.**

**THEY CELEBRATE THE PASSOVER IN AN UPPER ROOM, WHERE THE LORD GIVES THEM DETAILS OF HIS IMPENDING TROUBLE.**

**IN A FEW DAYS HE WOULD BE ARRESTED, BEATEN, EXAMINED, TRIED, CONVICTED, EXECUTED, BURIED AND THEN RESURRECTED WITH ALL POWER.**

**AT THE TABLE, HE DEALS WITH HIS BETRAYAL AND HIS BETRAYER, PETER – HOWEVER HE JUST ISN'T TALKING TO PETER, HE'S TALKING TO ALL OF THE DISCIPLES AND ALL OF US.**

**WHEN JESUS USES THE WORD “YOU” IN GREEK, HE'S NOT ADDRESSING PETER SPECIFICALLY BUT HE'S ADDRESSING THE DISCIPLES THEN AND US TODAY IN GENERAL.**

**SATAN IS NOT JUST AFTER ONE OF US, HE'S AFTER ALL OF US. WHETHER YOU'RE BLACK OR WHITE, YOUNG OR OLD, RICH OR POOR, EASTSIDE OR WESTSIDE, TOWN OR COUNTRY GROWN, NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE SATAN IS**

**AFTER YOU!!!**

**I. FIRST, SATAN HAS A DESIRE FOR YOU.**

- A. LOOK AT THE TEXT: AND THE LORD SAID, SIMON, SIMON, BEHOLD, SATAN HATH DESIRED TO HAVE YOU.**
- 1. THE LORD CALLS OUT THE NAME OF PETER NOT BY HIS STRONGER NAME, PETROS WHICH MEANS GREAT ROCK, BUT HE CALLS HIM OUT BY HIS WEAKER NAME SIMON WHICH MEANS SMALL ROCK.**
  - 2. JESUS TELLS SATAN DESIRES TO HAVE YOU!**
  - 3. JESUS IS NOT WORKING FROM THE REALM OF HYPOTHESIS, NO, JESUS HAS INSIDE INFORMATION!**
  - 4. JESUS IS OMNISCIENT, WHICH SIMPLY MEANS THAT HE KNOWS EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE'S HEARTS AND MINDS.**
  - 5. BECAUSE HE IS GOD, HE KNOWS YOUR PAST, YOUR PRESENT, YOUR FUTURE, YOUR THOUGHTS, YOUR AMBITIONS, YOUR MOTIONS – AND NOT JUST OURS, BUT HE KNOWS WHAT SATAN IS UP TO!**
  - 6. JESUS KNOWS THAT SATAN'S GOT PETER IN HIS SIGHTS.**
  - 7. SATAN HAS BEEN CHECKING PETER OUT.**
  - 8. SATAN IS NOT PARTICULARLY ATTRACTED TO THE LAZY AND MESSED UP, HE'S ALREADY GOT THEM. SATAN IS AFTER THE GIFTED, THE BLESSED, THE HOLY, AND THE RIGHTEOUS.**

**B. SATAN GOES AFTER THOSE WHO ARE BLESSED!**

- 1. SATAN GOES AFTER THOSE WHO ARE GIFTED!**
- 2. SATAN GOES AFTER THOSE WHO LIFT UP HOLY HANDS!**
- 3. SATAN GOES AFTER THOSE WHO SING GOD'S PRAISE!**
- 4. SATAN GOES AFTER THOSE WHO GIVE THEIR TITHES!**
- 5. SATAN GOES AFTER THOSE WHO HAVE GREAT POTENTIAL.**

**C. THE REASON WHY SATAN IS GIVING YOU HELL RIGHT NOW IS BECAUSE YOU'VE GOT POTENTIAL.**

- 1. SATAN KNOWS THAT GOD HAS PUT SOME THINGS IN YOU THAT WHEN YOUR SEASON COMES AND GOD RELEASES IT, YOU WILL NEVER BE THE SAME, YOUR FAMILY WON'T BE THE SAME, AND YOUR FRIENDS WON'T BE THE SAME.**
- 2. THIS WORD "DESIRE" IS INTERESTING - WHAT IT REALLY MEANS IS THAT SATAN IS ASKING FOR SOMEONE OR SOMETHING THAT BELONGS TO SOMEBODY ELSE.**
- 3. NOW, IF I DON'T BELONG TO SATAN, THERE'S ONLY ONE OTHER PERSON I CAN BELONG TO AND THAT'S THE LORD!**

**D. LET'S SEE IF I CAN DRAW THIS PICTURE –**

- 1. LADIES, SOME MEN AREN'T FREE, THEY BELONG TO SOMEBODY ELSE.**

2. **BROTHERS, SOME WOMEN AREN'T FREE, THEY BELONG TO SOMEBODY ELSE.**
3. **NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU WINK, BAT YOUR EYES, SMILE, GRIN AND FLINT, FLIRT, THEY STILL BELONG TO SOMEBODY ELSE!**
4. **HOWEVER, SOME FOLK ARE SO LOW DOWN THAT THEY'LL DO ANYTHING TO GET SOMEBODY THAT BELONGS TO SOMEBODY ELSE.**
5. **SATAN IS SO LOW DOWN THAT HE'LL DO ANYTHING TO GET YOU AWAY FROM THE LORD.**

I. **FIRST, SATAN HAS A DESIRE FOR YOU.**

II. **SECONDLY, SATAN HAS A PLAN FOR YOU.**

A. **LOOK AT THE TEXT: "THAT HE MAY SIFT YOU AS WHEAT."**

1. **WHEN WE GO TO THE STORE TODAY WE CAN BUY FLOUR THAT'S NICELY PACKAGED, READY TO USE. HOWEVER FLOUR HAS ITS GENESIS IN THE FIELDS.**
2. **SOMEBODY HAD TO GO OUT INTO THE FIELDS AND HARVEST THE WHEAT.**
3. **THEN THEY WOULD BRING THE WHEAT FOR PROCESSING AND IT WOULD BE SIFTED FOR USE.**

B. **UNDERSTAND THAT IN ORDER FOR SIFTING TO TAKE PLACE, IT WOULD HAVE TO BE PLACED IN A BASKET OR A SIEVE, AND IT WOULD BE TOSSED UP AND DOWN OVER AND OVER AND OVER AGAIN UNTIL THE KERNELS WOULD BREAK DOWN AND ANYTHING THAT WAS NEEDED FOR BAKING AND COOKING WOULD COME THROUGH THE BOTTOM OF THE**

**SIEVE.**

- 1. HERE'S MY POINT – IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND WHAT JESUS IS SAYING, IF SATAN EVER GET HIS HANDS ON YOU – YOU BETTER GET READY – SATAN WILL SHAKE YOU UP.**
  - 2. SHAKE UP YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES.**
  - 3. SHAKE UP YOUR FINANCES.**
  - 4. SHAKE UP YOUR RELATIONSHIPS.**
- C. SATAN IS NOT AFTER YOUR BAD ATTITUDE, YOUR SINFUL SELF, NO SATAN WILL SHAKE YOU AND SHAKE YOU UNTIL YOUR BEST COMES OUT!**
- 1. I USED TO THINK THAT SATAN WAS AFTER MY MONEY BUT THAT'S NOT THE BEST PART OF ME.**
  - 2. I USED TO THINK THAT SATAN WAS AFTER MY BODY BUT THAT'S NOT THE BEST PART OF ME.**
  - 3. I USED TO THINK THAT SATAN WAS AFTER MY HEALTH BUT THAT'S NOT THE BEST PART OF ME.**
  - 4. I USED TO THINK THAT SATAN WAS AFTER MY CAR AND MY HOUSE BUT THAT'S NOT THE BEST PART OF ME.**
  - 5. NO, THE BEST PART OF ME IS MY PRAISE!**
  - 6. IF SATAN CAN JUST SHUT DOWN MY PRAISE, GET HIS HANDS ON MY PRAISE – THAT'S WHAT THE LORD DESIGNED ME FOR.**

7. I'M DESIGNED TO SAY "THANK YOU JESUS" AND "BLESS GOD"

8. AND I'M DESIGNED TO DANCE AND PRAISE GOD.

D. I NEED TO TELL YOU JUST BECAUSE SATAN WANTS TO GET HIS HANDS ON YOU, DOESN'T MEAN THAT HE WILL.

1. JUST BECAUSE SATAN WANTS YOU TO STOP PRAISING GOD, DOESN'T MEAN THAT YOU WILL.

2. JUST BECAUSE SATAN WANTS YOU TO BECOME ANOTHER STATISTIC, DOESN'T MEAN THAT YOU WILL.

3. JUST BECAUSE SATAN WANTS YOU TO BE DEAD IN CHURCH, DOESN'T MEAN THAT YOU WILL.

4. JUST BECAUSE SATAN WANTS YOU TO LIVE AN ALTERNATIVE LIFESTYLE, DOESN'T MEAN THAT YOU WILL.

E. SOME OF US HAVE EVEN GOTTEN RADICAL ABOUT THIS.

1. WE ARE DETERMINED TO PRAISE GOD IN SPITE OF WHAT'S GOING ON IN OUR LIVES.

2. SOME OF US KEEP PRAISING GOD WITH CANCER.

3. SOME OF US KEEP PRAISING GOD WITH NO JOB.

4. SOME OF US KEEP PRAISING GOD WITH TROUBLE IN OUR HOMES.

5. SATAN CAN LOOK AT ME, CHECK ME OUT, BUT HE CAN'T HAVE ME.
6. SATAN CAN LOOK AT YOUR CHILD, CHECK OUT YOUR CHILD, BUT YOU'VE GOT TO DECLARE, HE CAN'T HAVE MY CHILD!
7. SATAN YOU CAN LOOK AT MY CHURCH, CHECK OUT MY CHURCH, BUT I DECLARE YOU CAN'T HAVE MY CHURCH...

I. FIRST, SATAN HAS A DESIRE FOR YOU.

II. SECONDLY, SATAN HAS A PLAN FOR YOU.

III. MY LAST POINT – JESUS HAS AN INTERVENTION FOR YOU

A. LOOK AT THE TEXT: BUT I HAVE PRAYED FOR THEE, THAT THY FAITH FAIL NOT.

1. JESUS INVOKES THE WORD “BUT” WHICH SUGGESTS THAT EVERYTHING THAT COMES AFTER MAKES EVERYTHING NULL AND VOID BEFORE THIS CONJUNCTION.

B. I'VE GOT A BUFFER BETWEEN WHAT SATAN WANTS TO DO WITH ME AND GOD THE FATHER – AND HIS NAME IS JESUS!

1. JESUS SAYS THAT SATAN WANTS YOU.
2. WHETHER YOUR NAME IS SALLY OR SHENIQUA, RICKY OR RAYRAY, JOHN OR POOKIE, SATAN WANTS YOU!
3. HOWEVER, I HAVE GOOD NEWS FOR YOU. THE LORD WILL INTERVENE ON YOUR BEHALF!

4. THE LORD WILL GET INTO YOUR BUSINESS!
5. THE LORD WILL IMPOSE HIMSELF INTO YOUR STRUGGLE.
6. HE SAYS I HAVE PRAYED FOR YOU!

**C. AREN'T YOU GLAD THAT JESUS PRAYS FOR US?**

1. SOMEONE WROTE A SONG THAT SAYS:

**“JESUS PRAYED FOR ME,  
HAD ME ON HIS MIND,  
TOOK THE TIME TO PRAY FOR ME.  
I'M SO GLAD HE PRAYED,  
I'M SO GLAD HE PRAYED,  
I'M SO GLAD HE PRAYED FOR ME.”**

2. JESUS IS COMMITTED TO PRAYING FOR US.
3. FRIENDS MAY FORGET TO PRAY FOR ME.
4. FAMILY MEMBERS MAY BE TOO BUSY TO PRAY FOR ME.

**D. BUT I'VE GOT JESUS – WHO KEEPS HIS WORD – WHO I CAN DEPEND UPON. HE IS COMMITTED TO PRAYING FOR ME!**

1. WHEN I'M WEAK – HE'S PRAYING!
2. WHEN I'M WORN OUT – HE'S PRAYING!
3. WHEN I'M IN TROUBLE – HE'S PRAYING!
4. WHEN FRIENDS WALK AWAY – HE'S PRAYING!
5. WHEN PROBLEMS COME – HE'S PRAYING!

6. **WHEN THE LORD PRAYS, HE DOESN'T PRAY FOR OUR FINANCIAL PROSPERITY,**
7. **HE DOESN'T PRAY FOR A LARGER BANK ACCOUNT,**
8. **HE DOESN'T PRAY FOR HEALING OF THE BODY**
9. **HE PRAYS THAT OUR FAITH FAILS NOT.**

**E. IT'S A SUGGESTION THAT WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO GO THROUGH SOME THINGS IN THIS LIFE.**

1. **I TOLD YOU THAT SATAN WILL ATTACK YOU, TOSS YOU AROUND – AND THE LORD DOES NOT PRAY FOR A FINANCIAL MIRACLE, HE PRAYS THAT YOUR FAITH DOES NOT FAIL, DOES NOT GIVE OUT, DOES NOT CEASE.**
2. **FAITH IS THE SUBSTANCE OF THINGS HOPE FOR AND THE EVIDENCE OF THINGS NOT SEEN.**
3. **IF WE TELL THE TRUTH, SOMETIMES OUR FAITH GETS A LITTLE WEARY. `**
4. **BUT I'M GLAD THAT JESUS IS PRAYING THAT MY FAITH WOULD NOT CHANGE, MY FAITH WILL NOT STOP, MY FAITH WILL NOT BE DETERRED.**

**F. AREN'T YOU GLAD THAT JESUS IS AN INTERCESSOR?**

1. **AREN'T YOU GLAD THAT IF MOMMA AIN'T PRAYING FOR YOU,**
2. **IF YOUR FATHER IS NOT PRAYING FOR YOU,**
3. **IF YOUR ROOMMATE AIN'T PRAYING FOR YOU,**

4. IF YOUR HUSBAND OR WIFE AIN'T PRAYING FOR YOU – JESUS IS PRAYING FOR YOU!

**G. WHEN SATAN WANTS TO SIFT ME, JESUS IS DOING SOMETHING ABOUT IT! HE'S LIFTING ME UP IN PRAYER!**

1. SATAN THOUGHT HE WAS GOING TO SIFT ME, BUT JESUS HAS STEPPED IN TO PRAY FOR ME.
2. SATAN SHOULD HAVE KILLED ME WHEN HE HAD THE CHANCE.
3. SATAN SHOULD HAVE LOCKED MY DOORS WHEN HE HAD THE CHANCE.
4. SATAN SHOULD HAVE WIPED ME OUT WHEN HE HAD THE CHANCE.
5. I CELEBRATE THAT HE'S PRAYING FOR ME!
6. I WOULDN'T HAVE MADE IT THIS FAR WITHOUT THE LORD PRAYING FOR ME!
7. JESUS PRAYED IN THE GARDEN,
8. PRAYED ON THE CROSS . . . FATHER FORGIVE THEM . . .
9. HE'S PRAYING FOR YOU RIGHT NOW!!!

**I THANK GOD THAT I AM NOT SIFTED BUT I AM LIFTED.**