To Seek and To Save #6 “Simon, Simon” Luke 22: 31-34; 54-62

**Intro**: *Have you ever failed?*

At a crucial time, when people, friends and family, were counting on you, looking to you, you caved, crashed. You knew what you needed to do, who you ought to be, but you did not have the courage, the conviction, the consistency to Stand Up, Stand Firm. You were weak/strong; silent/speak; absent/present. You Failed.

**t/s** – There is a story, included at the climax of all four of the Gospels. It is not a success story. ***It is the story of a Failure***.

**Luke 22: 31-34; 54-62** Read with Comments:

**Vs. 31** – ***Simon, Simon*** = Identity and calling at stake!

***Demanded permission*** = obtained by asking (desired, asked)

Satan’s arrogance and his subordination, limited

***Sift like wheat*** = separation…. Chaff blown away (tossed up)

Is Peter wheat or chaff… ruined or refined

**Vs. 32** – Peter will fail, but his ***faith will not fail***… future leadership

**Vs. 34** – Peter’s pride… prediction

**Vs. 54** – to ***follow at a distance*** is dangerous… already hedging

**Vs. 61** – The Lord turned and looked at Peter… not rebuke, but love.

Stanton, Anglican pastor in London, *the look of Jesus, however wonderful, would have been no good, if at that moment Simon had not been looking His way.*

**t/s** - What are we to learn from this?

**Be Humble**

**Exp** – Peter began his walk with Jesus by falling at His feet and crying,

“*Get away from me; I am a sinful man*!” (Luke 5)

* Three years later, faithful and established,

“*Who is Greatest*?” “*I will never falter… even die*!”

**App** – Let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

**Be Alert**

**Exp** – Jesus warned Peter of Satan’s plan for him, scheme, sifting.

* Satan seeks to destroy ***our Faith***. (Jesus’ prayer)
* **Vs. 31** – “***You***” plural… Satan’s scheme for all Apostles.

**ILL** – Watching Basketball… athleticism, ability… Awareness!

“Keep Your Head on a Swivel”

Swivel = coupling allows a part to rotate, swing, twist…

**App** – Keep your head on a Swivel… We are in a Spiritual battle.

**Be Hopeful**

**Exp** – **Vs. 32** – consider carefully…

1. Peter will fail (deny 3 times) But His Faith will not Falter… He will return & Lead Again.
2. Jesus Intercedes – He still Prays for us!

*He always lives to make intercession for us.* (Heb. 7)

**App** – Even when you fail, especially when you fail, Keep the Faith.

*Did we in our own strength confide our striving would be losing;*

*Were not the right man on our side, the man of God’s own choosing.*

*Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus it is He; Lord Sabaoth His name, from age to age the same, and He must win the battle.*

**t/s –** The Lessons Learned from Peter’s Failure are vital.

**Be Humble. Be Alert. Be Hopeful**

You don’t need to take my word for it.

***Let’s ask Peter*** himself to testify this morning.

**1 Peter 5: 6-11**

**Vs. 6-7 Be Humble**

Notice concern about “self-exaltation”

**Vs. 8-9 Be Alert**

Keep your head on a swivel… adversary and brethren

***Firm in Faith*** == That your faith will not Falter! (Jesus)

**Vs. 10-11 Be Hopeful**

Notice how our Hope is built on Who God Is…

The God Who Called You…. God Himself will…

***Power*** – His Mighty Hand (the roaring lion is tamed)

***Grace*** – God of all Grace (He cares for you)

***Purpose*** – *Called you to His eternal glory in Christ*

Will Himself… complete, confirm, strengthen, establish…. To Him, Dominion, Forever!

We lose Faith when we lose Hope. Without confidence in the future our faith falters. Our Hope is Him; the Power, Grace and Purposes of God that are ours in Jesus Christ our Lord.

***Peter, your courage is going to fail, your commitment will waver; you are going to embarrass yourself and disappoint your brothers; but do not stop trusting Me, Stand Firm in Faith. You will repent; and I will use you in My Power, by My Grace, for My Purpose.***

**Interview G. and T.** (Guy and Traci)

9:30 – During Offering

11:00 – After Welcome

Members of our church working in North Africa to share Jesus and start churches. They have two children under three. We support with prayer, $$, encouragement.

1. What is a challenge or something exciting you as a family have encountered in the culture in which you live?
2. How do people in N. Africa respond to the Good News of Jesus?
3. What is the current status of the church in North Africa? Major struggles, do you see this changing anytime soon?
4. How can we be praying for you and the people in your country?

***Lead in Prayer***