1 - **“I Have Prayed For You…”** (Luke 22:31-34)

2 – **Context**

* The night before Jesus’ arrest
* Just after Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper and the *“dispute among them as to which one of them was the greatest.”* (Luke 22:24ff)
* The promise of the kingdom. (vs. 28-30)
* Jesus said He’d be with them just ***“a little while longer”*** and that the apostles would seek Him but “***follow later***”. (John 13:31-36)
* Peter wants to ***“follow You right now”*** and promises that he is willing to ***“lay down my life for You.”*** (John 13:37)

3 - “*Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; but* ***I have prayed for you****, that* ***your faith may not fail****; and you, when once you have* ***turned again****,* ***strengthen your brothers****.“* **Luke 22:31-32**

4 - **Satan’s Request**

* Jesus shared with Simon that Satan wanted to ***“sift you like wheat.”*** (Luke 22:31; cf., Job 1:9-12)
	+ “***Sift... like wheat***…” A means of separation. (Amos 9:8-9; Luke 3:17)
	+ Allowed by God always with a ***“way of escape”***. (1 Corinthians 10:13)
* Satan had already “***put into the heart***” Judas to betray the Lord for money. (John 13:2; cf., Acts 5:3; 2 Peter 2:14)
* “***You***” is in the **plural** in this verse. Satan wanted to “***sift***” all of the Lord’s disciples and continually seeks to destroy all “*our brethren*” today. (1 Peter 5:8; Revelation 12:10 )

5 - **In Jesus’ Darkest Hour…**

* In contrast to Satan’s efforts… ***“I have prayed for you…”*** (John 17:8, 13-19)
* How is it that the Son of God would be so concerned about others/us at such a time as this? Why did He?
	+ - Paul also prayed for his brethren! (Colossians 1:3, 9-11)
* **Jesus knows** our temptations. (Hebrews 4:14-16)
* Jesus needed His disciples to be strong & courageously face/overcome the sifting. (Matt. 28:18-20; John 16:13)
* Just after this in the garden, Jesus urged them to pray for themselves. (Luke 22:40, 46)

6 - **In Jesus’ Darkest Hour…**

We are taught to pray for those *“in authority* ***so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity****”* (1 Timothy 2:2) but we also need to pray that **when life isn’t *“tranquil and quiet”*** that our faith will remain strong.

Rather than praying for **challenges equal to our faith**, we ought to pray for **faith equal to any spiritual challenge**.

7 - **Jesus’ Prayer…**

1. ***“That your faith may not fail…”***
* How can our faith fail us? (Matthew 6:30; 8:26; Luke 18:8)
* *“Be on the alert,* ***stand firm in the faith****, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.”* (1 Corinthians 16:13-14)
* Paul rejoiced regarding the brethren in Colossae *“to see the* ***stability of your faith****.”* (Colossians 2:5)
* Jesus was warning Peter of a quiver full of *“flaming arrows”* (*fiery darts*, ASV) that Satan would soon be shooting directly at him and that he needed to prepare his *“****shield of faith****”* to *“****extinguish****”* all of them. (Ephesians 6:16)
* The endurance of faith is critical. (Hebrews 10:35-39; 11:32ff)

8 – **Jesus’ Prayer…**

1. ***A heart that turns back to God.***
* Jesus said in Luke 22:32, *“… and you, when once you have turned again …”*
* John wrote his epistle *“****so that you may not sin****. And* ***if anyone sins****, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”* 1 John 2:1
* Our goal: *“****from now on****”* we’re going to *“****sin no more****”* (John 8:11).
* If we do sin, will we turn to our Advocate Jesus Christ in humble confession and acknowledgement of our sin (1 John 1:9; Psalms 32:5; Hosea 5:15) and true repentance (2 Corinthians 7:11).
* Proverbs 24:16, *“For a righteous man falls seven times, and rises again.”*
* What do we do after our faith fails? Keep returning to our heavenly
Father seeking His forgiveness. (Luke 17:4) There’s no place to quit!

9 - **Jesus’ Prayer…**

1. ***Strengthen your brethren.***
* Loving as He loved us. (John 13:34)
* Jesus again focused Peter on ***“My sheep”*** and the need to ***“tend”*** or feed, strengthen and build them up as a herdsman. (John 21:15-17; Ephesians 4:29; 1 Cor. 10:23; Romans 15:1-2)
* How do we strengthen each other? (Acts 14:21-22; 15:32; Acts 16:5; 20:32; Hebrews 13:9; 10:24)
* Are we willing to stand together and fight for each other and the Kingdom of Christ? (Nehemiah 4:14)

10 - **Jesus’ Sacrifice…**

Jesus then laid down His life.

* He then went to the Mount of Olives to pray. (22:39-46)
* He was then arrested after being betrayed. (22:47-53)
* Peter then began “following at a distance” (22:54) and then denied knowing the Lord 3 times. (22:55-61)
* Vs. 61, ***“The Lord turned and looked at Peter…”***;
Peter then ***“went out and wept bitterly”***. (vs. 62)
* Jesus committed Himself to His Father to the point of death. (23:46; 1 Peter 2:23; Revelation 2:10; Heb. 5:8)
* Jesus arose from the dead and commissioned His disciples to preach the gospel. (24:1-12, 44-47)

11 - **Jesus’ Prayer for Us…**

1. A faith that will not fail but rather endure to the end.
2. A refusal to give up when we fail or fall down.
3. A commitment to our brethren to strengthen each other.