



Today's Message

Date: July 31, 2021
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: *Grace for the Day of Failure*

Text: Luke 22:31–34 (ESV)

³¹ “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, ³² but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.” ³³ Peter said to him, “Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death.” ³⁴ Jesus said, “I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me.”

Introduction: Jesus shared an intimate meal with his disciples in an upper room in Jerusalem on the night before he died. During the meal, they returned to a familiar topic: which of them would receive the greatest honor in the kingdom. After a gentle correction, Jesus turned to Peter and foretold his moment of great failure. It would happen before the night was over. Peter would deny Jesus three times. His dreams of honor would crumble into shame. This sermon will use Jesus’ conversation with Peter as a case study in Christian failure. The central theme the grace of our Lord.

- I. **Satan prowls about trying to devour Jesus’ followers. 31**
 - A. He hounds them like he pursued Job.
 - B. He seeks to shatter their lives by ruining their leaders.

II. Jesus preserves us through loving intercession. 32

- A. Jesus intercedes so that our faith will not *ultimately* fail.
- B. Jesus intercedes so that we can serve others.

III. Proud self-confidence often signals coming failure. 33

- A. Failure awaits those who boast about their loyalty.
- B. Failure awaits those who unwisely compare themselves with others. Matthew 26:33

IV. All followers of Jesus are at risk of failure. 34

- A. Failure can come quickly.
- B. Failure can be shocking.
- C. But failure must only be temporary.

Today's take-home truth: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. James 4:6-7