

*The Lord said, "**Simon, Simon**, behold, **Satan asked to have you**, that he might sift you as wheat, **but I prayed for you**, that **your faith wouldn't fail**. You, when **once you have turned** again, **establish your brothers**."*

*He said to him, "**Lord, I am ready** to go with you both to prison and to death!"*

*He said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster will by no means crow today until **you deny that you know me three times**."*

*He said to them, "When I **sent you out without** purse, and wallet, and shoes, **did you lack anything**?"*

*They said, "**Nothing**." Then he said to them, "**But now**, whoever has a purse, let him take it, and likewise a wallet. Whoever has none, let him **sell his cloak**, and **buy a sword**. For I tell you that this **which is written must still be fulfilled in me**: 'He was **counted with the lawless**.' For **that which concerns me has an end**."*

*They said, "Lord, behold, here are **two swords**." He said to them, "That is enough." (Luke 22:31-38)*

Why did Satan ask permission to have Peter?

Did he get that permission?

Why did Jesus pray for Peter instead of simply **rebuking Satan**?

Jesus prayed that Peter's faith/trust **would not fail**. **Did it fail**?

What was the **nature of this faith** and how deep was it?

How does **sifting wheat** relate metaphorically to **keeping faith** from failing?

Once you have turned again... This implies **a need to return** from something not good.

What would be different after the turning?

Establish your brothers. Was this **something Peter was good at** or the opposite?

What was **Peter's current disposition** towards the other disciples? (Who's the greatest!)

Lord, **I am ready**!... Really now? Why did Peter feel so self-confident?

I sent you out without...**did you lack** anything? Nothing!

This **time is different**, but maybe **not the way you might assume**.

Does God want us to ever operate from a disposition of lack?

Maybe Jesus is revealing another dimension into which we are called to live that requires deeper faith.

Learn to **expect the unexpected**. In other words, **don't assume you know** what God does next.

Jesus often **spoke with symbols** while people presume it is literal. How does that apply here?

Why **sell your cloak** and **buy a sword**? Literally or spiritually?

What does a **cloak represent**?

How did the **disciples interpret** His words?

What **clues** are found in this passage that can **help us interpret** these symbols more accurately?

Two swords – two Simons. Both were accustomed to carrying a **sharp knife in their occupations**.

What does a **sword represent** in God's kingdom?

How might this story have transpired very differently if the disciples had chosen to ask Jesus to clarify what He meant by these words instead of simply assuming they already knew and were wrong?

Consider the next part of this chapter, but apply what we have learned here to scenario how it might have gone down if Peter had accepted the warnings and instructions of Jesus instead of his own agenda.

*He came out, and went, as his custom was, to the Mount of Olives. His disciples also followed him. When he was at the place, he said to them, "**Pray that you don't enter into temptation.**" He was **withdrawn** from them about a stone's throw, and **he knelt down and prayed**, saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, **not my will, but yours, be done.**"*

*An **angel from heaven** appeared to him, **strengthening him**. Being in agony he **prayed more earnestly**. His **sweat** became like **great drops of blood falling down** on the ground. When he rose up from his prayer, he came to the disciples, and **found them sleeping because of grief**, and said to them, "**Why do you sleep? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation.**"*

*While he was still speaking, behold, **a multitude**, and he who was called **Judas**, one of the twelve, was **leading them**. He came near to Jesus to **kiss him**. But Jesus said to him, "**Judas, do you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?**" (Luke 22:39-48)*

What is the **cause of this grief** that kept the disciples from staying awake to pray in support of Jesus and that would have empowered them to react differently in the hour of crisis?

What was being lost in their thinking that was causing such grief?

Their **cherished political expectations** of national greatness and **supremacy**.

Their **expectations of honor** in association with a **militant messiah**.

Their **hopes and dreams** of glory based on the **world's** definition of **power and authority**.

They had just come from an intense debate over who was the greatest. Now Jesus was pulling the rug out from under everything they imagined was about to be realized.

Jesus was acting like a weak, humble lamb instead of a triumphant messiah warrior and king.

This is why Judas betrayed Him, for he reasoned that if Jesus was forced into an untenable situation that threatened His life, He would be compelled to react in self-defense and finally act like the warrior Messiah everyone desired to rescue them from the tyranny of Roman occupation.

*While he was still speaking, behold, a multitude, and he who was called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He came near to Jesus to kiss him. But Jesus said to him, "Judas, do **you betray** the Son of Man **with a kiss?**" When those who were around him **saw what was about to happen**, they said to him, "**Lord, shall we strike with the sword?**" **A certain one of them struck** the servant of the high priest, and cut off his right ear.*

*But Jesus answered, "**Let me at least do this**"--and he touched his ear, and **healed him**. Jesus said to the chief priests, captains of the temple, and elders, who had come against him, "**Have you come out** as against a robber, **with swords and clubs?** When I was with you in the temple daily, you didn't stretch out your hands against me. But **this is your hour**, and the **power of darkness.**" They seized him, and led him away, and brought him into the high priest's house. But **Peter followed from a distance**. (Luke 22:47-54)*

*They **seized him**, and led him away, and brought him into the high priest's house. But **Peter followed from a distance**. When they had **kindled a fire** in the middle of the courtyard, and had sat down together, **Peter sat among them**. A certain servant girl saw him as he sat in the light, and looking intently at him, said, "This man also was with him." **He denied Jesus**, saying, "Woman, **I don't know him.**" After a little while someone else saw him, and said, "You also are one of them!" But Peter answered, "Man, **I am not!**" After about one hour passed, another confidently affirmed, saying, "Truly this man also was with him, for he is a Galilean!" But Peter said, "Man, **I don't know** what you are*

*talking about!" Immediately, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed. The Lord turned, and **looked at Peter**. Then **Peter remembered the Lord's word**, how he said to him, "Before the rooster crows you will deny me three times." He **went out, and wept bitterly**. (Luke 22:54-62)*