

The Gospel of Luke

Promised Blessings and Trials

Luke 22:28-37

1. **Promised Blessings** (vs.28-30)

After Jesus corrected their sinful preoccupation and understanding of their own prominence (vs.24-27), He reveals to the disciples that they have designated for unique service in the kingdom. The apostles had weathered both controversy and popularity with Jesus, and their uncommon experience has qualified them for a special role in the future glorious reign of Jesus (cf. Acts. 1:21-26).

2. **Promised Trials** (vs.31-34)

Jesus has clearly taught the disciples that they should expect persecution and hardship in the cause of following Him (Jn. 15:18-21). These hardships would come from all different types of people and relationships (Mt. 10:16-25).

A. **The Targeting of the Apostles** (v.31)

The devil has demanded permission to violently assault the disciples so that they would fall away. God has allowed this to happen, and Jesus warns the disciples of this immanent affliction (Job 1:8-12; 2:3-7; cf. 2 Cor. 11:23-25a).

B. **The Perseverance of the Apostles** (v.32)

Jesus follows up this dire revelation with a comforting promise that He had already prayed for Peter's faith not to fail, and that he will have a unique role in the continuing stability of the apostles' faith. It is one of God's blessings for all believers that both the Son and the Spirit intercede with the Father on our behalf (cf. Jn. 17:18-23; Rom. 8:26-27, 34; Heb. 7:25).

C. **The Confidence and Cowardice of an Apostle** (vs.33-34)

Peter boldly asserts his steadfast faithfulness to Jesus. And while he would ultimately suffer both imprisonment and martyrdom on account of Christ (v. 32b, Act 12:3ff), he would first deny Him (cf. vs. 54-62).

3. **Promised Hardships** (vs.35-36, 38)

Jesus had previously sent out His disciples, with no provisions of their own, to proclaim the good news where they were welcomed and provided for (Lk. 9:1-6; cf. Lk. 10:1-20). Jesus now instructs them to prepare themselves for their mission and to be ready for hostility instead of hospitality (Acts 19:23ff; 2 Cor. 11:25b-27).

4. **Promised Fulfillment** (v.37)

Jesus tells the apostles that He is the suffering servant of Isaiah (Isa. 52:13-53:12). Not only was Jesus to be executed among criminals, but He was to be numbered as one of them so as to fulfill what God had long ago promised.