

Being Sifted for His Glory

St. Luke 22:31-32

Minister J. Hamilton Collins
Lofton AME Church, Wren's, GA
September 2016

My brother and sisters a few weeks ago my wife and I were in the store browsing and as we came to the cooking aisle and as we were browsing my eye caught a sifter. And as I look at the sifter I had a preaching moment. And while I was having my moment I heard the Lord say that we have been sifted for service. While I was preparing this sermon I had no idea what a sifter did so I had to ask my wife what a sifter did so that I could better understand the text. I discovered that a sifter is designed so that things go in one way and come out another.

It's goes in the sifter in lumps and clumps it goes unusable, undesirable but come out another way. And if God is to use us for service then he must send us through the sifting process. I know there some people who may have it all together but for those us who are still a work in progress I'm reminded of the song writer that's please be patient with me for God is not through with me yet. We cannot be greatly used by God till we are hurt by God. For the late Andre Crouch picked it up and said :if I never had a problem how would I know what faith in God would do, So through it all I learned to Trust in Jesus, through it all I learned to trust in God through it all I learned to trust how to lean and depend upon his word.

It's here in our text that we see Jesus and his disciples in Jerusalem at the time of Passover. The Passover is a commemoration of their liberation by God from slavery in Egypt and their freedom as a nation under the leadership of Moses. For when the death angel came and saw the blood of the lamb on the door past he passed over them.

And my brothers and my sisters if we are going to sifted for service the first thing the text is tailored to teach: It's Sanctioned

And the word sifted means to: "examine (something) thoroughly so as to isolate that which is most important or useful."

And church that's why the Lord allows us to be sifted so that he can examine us and find what's useful and isolates that from that things that Satan would desire to use against us.

My brothers and sisters I need to let somebody here in The Grove know that Satan can't do anything to you without first getting Gods approval. If you don't believe let me call up Job this morning. When the sons of God came to present theme before God that Satan showed up with them. And the Lord said to Satan from whence thou hast come. And Satan answered from going to and fro seeking whom I may desire.

And the Lord said has thou considered my servant Job. There is none like him in all the earth. He is perfect upright fears God and shuns evil. The bible says that the Lord allowed Job to be sifted by Satan. And Job went through his sifting without cursing God or charging God foolishly. And I wonder on today can God pick you out to be picked on? Can God hand pick you to be sifted by Satan and you not damage his reputation?

Im told that hunting on a wild life reserve is different than hunting in the woods. For a wildlife reserve is a federal protected piece of land. So in order to hunt on a wild life reserve you first must hunt the right animal in the right season. Meaning u can't hunt deer in rabbit season nor rabbit in peasant season. Secondly you have to have a license and then thirdly you have to have the Game warden permission. Let me say it again you first got to hunt the right animal in the right season, secondly you got to have a license and lastly you got to get permission.

It's the same with us as a federal protected piece of land. Satan can only attack you in the season God allows, then he got to have a license and he shonuff got to have Gods permission. Nothing happens in this world without God's permission. Rather it be a bird falling from the sky, hair falling off your head or a star falling from its sliver sockets. Nothing happens unless God sanctions it first. The Lord says to Simon that while your being sifted I'm praying your faith fails not. I know and Satan both know you not ready but because you have the keys to the kingdom I need to allow you to be sifted. And I need to let somebody know this morning that if Satan has a desire to sift then he feels threatened by you. For satan only goes after People that he feels will threaten his kingdom. But just remember if he attacks you that it's only because God sanctioned it.

Notice if you will the (A) clause of verse 32:But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not:

The word faith, here, seems to be used in the sense of religion, or attachment to Christ, and the words fail not mean utterly fail or fail altogether-that is. Jesus already knew Simon was going to deny him 3 times.

It is true that the courage of Peter failed; it is true that he had not that immediate confidence in Jesus and reliance on him which he had before had; but the prayer of Jesus was that he might not altogether walk away from the faith.

God heard Jesus always and it follows, therefore, that every prayer which he ever offered was answered; and it follows, as he asked here for a specific thing, that that thing was granted; and as he prayed that Peter's faith might not utterly fail, so it follows that there was no time in which

Peter was not really a religious man. Far as he wandered, and grievously as he sinned, yet he well knew that Jesus was the Messiah. He did know the man; and though his fears overcame him and led him to aggravated sin, yet the prayer of Christ was prevalent, and he was brought to true repentance.

But then not only is it sanctioned but it's also seasonal:Notice what the text says: when thou art converted.

The word converted means: turned, changed, recovered. The meaning is, when thou art turned from this sin, when thou art recovered from this terrible offense.

Which leads me to believe that trouble doesn't last forever. It'd lets me know that all there may trouble in my life now but it's only temporary.

I don't who I'm talking to on today but perhaps your testimony is if it ain't one thing it's another if it ain't this it's that. Refrigerator goes out time you get it fix stove wanna act up. Get the stove fix, dishwasher break down. Just seems like when trouble hits it's a never ending cycle.

But I'm come by The Grove today with some good news and that is trouble don't last always. The psalmist said it best Weeping might endure for a night but Joy come in the morning.

All hell May have broke lose in your life but just remember it's only seasonal. Anything that's seasonal is temporary. Look at the weather we have 4 seasons and they all last 3 months a piece. Same with the child of God u may be in ur season of trouble or trials but just know it's just temporary. That's why the song writer wrote that: This to shall pass!

So don't you worry and don't you fret because soon ur season of trouble will be over. Soon ur season of testing will be over. Soon your season of being sifted will be over.

And just as the Lord told Simon that: when thou art converted strengthen they brethren.

In other words use your experience to warn and strengthen those who are in danger of like sins.

For the bible says: we are overcomes by the words of our testimony. And it's the job of every child of God to encourage another when God brings us through.

About Minister J. Hamilton Collins

Is a 37 years old anointed preacher who has been preaching for 15yrs. He was originally licensed at The First Baptist Church of Deer Park, NY us the pastorate of Bishop Dr. Winfred J. Pippen.

But on Mother's Day 2007 he was blessed to have his dream come true by having have his father to

Re license him by the request of Mt.Olive Missionary Baptist Church, Bluefield, WV. Then in 2012 he relocated to Wrens, GA and on August 17th, 2013 he married the love of his life the former Tammie Whigham. Currently he attends The New Loften Circuit AME Church Wrens. GA under the leadership of Pastor Stephen B. Smith.

ministerjhamiltoncollins@gmail.com