

## Living in the reality of the resurrection - Adam Heather

Jesus' resurrection changes the way we can live our lives, but **have I taken it to heart and acted on it?**

We are to "be transformed by the renewing of my mind..." Romans 12v2.

Luke 22v31 "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.

Hebrews 7v25 "he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them."

- Sifting = violent shaking. Satan wants to break you, but God wants to make you...separate you from your impurities. The more we read the bible the more we tend to become aware of our impurities.
- "Satan asked to sift all of you" Plural. Against all the disciples.
- "I prayed for you." Singular. Jesus does all his healing miracles for one individual person, not crowds. Jesus prays for you and me personally. He knows us personally and acts for each one of us personally.
- "That your faith may not fail." Fail = ekleipo = become eclipsed.

Satan uses a little thing near us to eclipse the redeeming glory of God. He positions it just right to obscure our vision of God, his kingdom and his righteousness....in fact all the things we should be seeking first. **What are the things in our lives that eclipse God?**

- Eclipsing moons can be harder to see in our own lives than in others. Satan will use lies, repetition and sometimes truths to get them close and into position. What did Satan choose as the eclipsing moon for Peter? Shame and fear. Luke 22 v54-62. Peter disowned Jesus three times then wept bitterly. He was ashamed of himself. Shame attacks the identity and leads to separation from friends/support groups.
- Lost without Jesus, his leader and ashamed of himself, Peter went back to the security of doing what he knew best and went fishing.

Satan intended this to break Peter and leave him where he was before he met Jesus. But Peter has another encounter with Jesus....John 21v1-9. Fruitless night of fishing. Unrecognised figure on the shore. "throw nets out on other side" Enormous catch. "It is the Lord." "Come and have breakfast." "Do you love me?" three times. **Jesus called them "Friends" How much of a friend do we feel that Jesus is to us?**

- Forgiven, welcomed and recommissioned by Jesus despite his deep shame, (moon) Peter moved from self confidence and self reliance to confidence in and reliance on God. Not that he, Peter, had what it takes but that Jesus did what it took.
  - The pharisees hired hecklers to crow like cockerels when Peter preached. Peter would recall not his shame, but Jesus' reaction to his denial and would preach the more!

*The accuser may roar of sins I have done  
I know them all and thousands more  
Jehovah knoweth none.*

Jesus intercedes for us, as he did for Peter. Like us, Peter got it wrong. But Jesus forgave him, strengthened his faith and empowered him in his ministry. Jesus used Peter, though flawed, to become the leader of his church. **What encouragement can we draw from this?**

- Luke 22v31 again "And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." With Jesus, there is always an "*and when you*" come through this Satanic trial, as you surely will in my strength, a Godly ministry waits your strengthened self. So there's hope, even for me, that I might be useful after all.

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Peter Burton added:

- **Name your eclipsing moon.**
- **Identify the underlying fear, concern, shame...**
- **Get a strategy to address it.**
  - **Do something every day towards it, if only for 30 seconds.**

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Adam quoted "Only ever look at Satan long enough to pull the trigger."

**What lesson can we learn from instruction?**