

Understanding your role as “God's chosen leader”....By Angela Loggin

“After you have suffered, go and encourage your brethren” (Luke 22:32).

Can I share with you what the Holy Spirit taught me?

Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren” (Luke 22:31, 32 NKJB).

Luke, a physician, writes with the compassion of a family doctor as he carefully documents the life of Jesus Christ. His purpose for writing this passage was to strengthen the faith of Gentile believers and stimulate saving faith among non-believers. Luke also intended to show that Christ was not only God, but also human.

In this passage, two different roles emerge: Jesus is clearly the leader and Peter is His disciple. Jesus tells Peter that Satan has asked to sift him to cause a difficult time in his life. Jesus assures Peter that He would pray that his faith will not fail. Yet, before Peter's denial Jesus predicts this outcome.

He predicts that Peter is going to be a leader to His disciples, as well as the church at large. Jesus tells Peter that, after his suffering, he would be restored. At this time, Peter does not understand the role he is going to portray in the lives of many. Peter argues with Jesus that he would stay with Him---even until death.

Preparation is the key factor in an effective leader's life. In today's terms, your suffering may be the **loss of employment, health issues, marriage and family problems, death of a family member, failure of a business or ministry, or working in a hostile environment.**

God has called us to do great works for the kingdom. Before you can become an effective leader of His people, God will allow Satan to bring suffering into your life to remove anything that is a stumbling block hindering your walk.

Peter did become one of the greatest apostles because he encouraged over three thousand men, women, and children. In fact, Peter's ministry involved the first large church recorded in the Bible.

Every leader needs prayer and encouragement through tough times while serving in the ministry. Jesus has left us a perfect example for mentoring and exhorting our brothers and sisters in the ministry. His reassuring words to Peter helps today's leaders understand the reasons for their suffering during the hardships of life. A leader's responsibility involves encouraging the men and women under them who may be experiencing the same issue but don't understand the meaning of their trials.

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