

John 45 – Christ, Satan and Peter’s Peirasmos

Dr. Leon L. Sanders
John 13:36-38

Purpose of Lesson

- Purpose of this lesson to understand Peter’s peirasmos
 - Passages of Peter’s peirasmos [Testing] included in this lesson are dispersed throughout this gospel
 - Subsequent lessons will discuss how these passages contrasts Peter’s peirasmos with Christ’s peirasmos
 - Peter’s peirasmos nearly as important as Christ’s as it occurs in all believers’ lives: Detailed in Job (Job 1:2)

The Setting

- After the Pesach meal and Eucharist
 - They sang a hymn
 - They left Upper Room
- Christ and Apostles go to Mount of Olives opposite the Temple before going to Garden of Gethsemane



Peter's Trial in All Gospels

- Though all the Gospels record details of Peter's testing each adds a unique nuance, adding to our knowledge of Peter's testing, trial, peirasmos
 - Matthew and Mark parallel each other in their accounts
 - Luke gives the spiritual background
 - John illustrates Peter's spiritual naivety
- Peter represents all believers; explains our peirasmoi

Matthew and Mark

- Christ tells Apostles they will *all* desert Him as written in the Scriptures (Mt 13:7; Mk 26:31; Mk 14:27)
 - Peter says that though the other Apostles will desert Him, he will *never* desert Him
 - Christ, as Lord, interpreted this passage for them
 - Peter, placing himself above God actually says God has misinterpreted the Bible; thus, Peter corrects God (1Co 13:12)

Luke

- Jesus tells Peter that Satan has demanded to test Peter
 - The word usually translated as sift actually carries the connotation of winnowing: separating wheat from chaff
 - Christ said He has prayed that Peter's faith not fail him so he can strengthen the brethren afterward
 - Peter claims he is ready to go to prison or die for Christ
 - At the end of his life Peter will do both; but, not now as his faith is not yet prepared for that trial

John

- Christ tells the Apostles that He is going to leave them and where He is going they cannot come; yet
 - Peter asks why he cannot come as he would die for Jesus
- Though there are three facets of Peter's naivety, they all terminate in the same decree from Christ
 - Before rooster announces dawn, Peter will deny Christ three times (completion) during the darkness (Sin)

John's interplay between Light and Darkness since the Opening Hymn
Jesus shall rise like the sun with healing in His tresses (wings) for His Own (Mal 4:1-2)

Desperate Wickedness of the Heart

- The truth of a person's sin (heart): desperately wicked, beyond the understanding of people (Total depravity) (Je 17:9)
 - This refers to the lost, as we once were and...
 - It also includes the flesh all believers retain and which still deludes us as to our sinfulness (Ro 8:7, 13-21; 1Jo 1:8-10)
 - Peter's delusion: He thought he could control his flesh
 - Meaning: He did not need Christ (Christ's death) (Co 1:20-23)

Job is our Template (Job 1-2)

- God is in Heaven, Satan (Accuser) comes before Him
 - God points out those people who have His mark
 - Saved - Abraham
 - Will be saved - Job
 - Satan denigrates God's grace - God bribes His people
 - God allows Satan to πειράζω Job but sets the limits
 - God may allow repeated peirasmoi to achieve His goal

God does not test us with evil since it violates His Logos - He is Light
Indicator of Satan: Use of evil to test people (Adam and Eve) (Ja 1:15-17)
God allows us to suffer the consequences of our sin before bringing us back to Him

Christ Adds a New Dimension

- Christ told Peter that He has prayed for him, Peter, that his faith will not fail; i.e., fall away (Jo 10:28-30)
 - The Paraklatoi, Christ and Spirit, assist us during the peirasmoi; but, they do not prevent the testing (Jo 14:16-17)
 - Each testing has at least one or more goals, revealing the frailty of our faith apart from Christ
 - If the peirasmoi had no limits all would fall away (Mt 24:12)

Heart of the Issue – Pride (1Pe 5:6-8)

- Peter believed he had the power to control his flesh apart from Christ {Works}: Pride as a Roaring Lion
 - Satan sought to prove Peter's unworthiness by accusing him and receiving permission to test him; within limits
 - Peter's reliance on his deceitful flesh would only reveal his foolishness via failure which proves Satan's charge
 - Peter learned the deceitfulness of his prideful flesh when he met his match – Satan: The Master Lion

(Ro 8:33-39; 1Pe 1:6-7)
Lions roar when they have made their kill
Roaring before the hunt is empty prideful boasting - Like Peter
When tested he was found empty of resolve to fulfill his boasting

Peter's – Jesus' Peirasmoi Interwoven

- Jesus repeats, the Apostles will desert Him; but, (Jo 16:32-33)
 - Jesus has the Father; He is never alone except...
- Thus, Christ succeeds in His Peirasmos; faith in Father
 - Tested to determine His worthiness as Pascal Lamb
 - Deserted by Father as He suffers for sin as a sinner
 - He does not fail but completes His task; resurrected

Christ proves He is the true Lion, of the Tribe of Judah
He does not roar before His task and has no need to roar after His task [Self-evident]
(Ge 49:9-10; Re 5:5)

Sin, Like Peirasmoi, Never Changes

- “No peirasmos has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted (πειράζω) beyond your ability, but with the peirasmos he will also provide an end (the way of escape), that you may be able to endure it.” (1 Co 10:13)
 - Able (δύναμαι): Present Passive Indicative
 - Endure (ὑποφέρω): Aorist Active Infinitive

Believers (Peter) do not have the ability to endure Peirasmoi; it is the Parakletoi who support us. Enduring a peirasmos requires a past action on the part of the Parakletoi which is ongoing (Ep 1:3-10)

Peirasmoi Used to Bring Salvation

- Job is the prototype sinner, born from above (J= 3:3-8)
 - Marked as God's, declared righteous by God in Heaven
 - Peirasmoi, allowed by God through Satan within limits, revealed the sinfulness of Job, though denied by Job
 - Elihu's declaration of Job's wickedness compared to God's righteousness confronted Job's lost condition (Job 34:5-9, 35-37, 37:24)
 - When God confronts Job, he repents (Saved) (Job 40:3-6; 42:1-6)

Peirasmoi Differentiates the Lost

- Peirasmoi differentiates the saved from the lost when both go through the same fiery trials (Peirasmoi)
 - Saved respond through the strength of the parakletoi showing fruits of the Spirit (Jh 4:12-13)
 - Lost respond by demonstrating both the works of the flesh and hatred of those who produce fruits of Spirit (Ro 1:32-2:15; 2Co 7:10; 1Th 4:12-19)

Peirasmoi Differentiates the Saved

- The saved endure peirasmoi also for chastening, revealing our sin so we may confess and repent
(Ro 10:9-10; He 12:3-11; 1Jo 1:9)
- God does not chasten the lost; He lets them go (Ro 1:18-25)
- They are allowed to remain in their sin reaping rewards of sin; this is not peirasmoi, just the consequences of sin which come to both saved and lost (2Sa 12:3-13)
- God chastens those whom He loves just as earthly fathers and mothers are to chasten their children (Pr 1:1-9)

All Believers Fail via Works

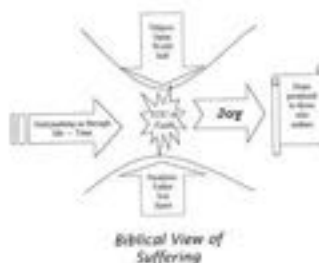
- Bible reveals all who believe in God fail their peirasmoi for the same reason as Peter: Works of the Flesh
- Man/Woman - Rejected God's word for self (Ge 3:6-7)
- Abraham/Sarai - Fathered Ishmael through Hagar (Ge 16)
- Moses - Did not circumcise his son (Ex 4:24-26)
- David - Murdered Uriah for Bathsheba (2Sa 11)
- You - Fill in the blank(s) (Co 5:19-21)

Issue is *Never* About Success

- People seek to impress God by their strength over peirasmoi and sin which only reveals their lack of understanding of the purpose of peirasmoi
- Peter sought to demonstrate his commitment to Christ above all others, look at me; all he succeeding in demonstrating was his fleshly covetousness for power
- Peter sought to raise himself by lowering others; opposite example of Christ {Foot washing}
(Jo 13:1-10; Mt 20:20-28; Ph 2:5-8)

Peirasmoi Biblical Schematic

- God via time pushes us through life
- Sin's Triad uses peirasmoi and Thlipsis to reveal sin
- Paraklatoi form the anvil against the pressure of sin's Triad, supporting us



Paraklatoi prevent us from redefining the goals making the trial easier, us successful
The Moral Law of God (Ten Words) is the standard by which God measures success

Goal of Peirasmoi: Maturity

- Purpose of the Peirasmoi or Hagiazo Process: to mold us into the image of Christ (Spiritual maturity)
 - We see as through an enigma: learning but never able to come to the complete knowledge of Christ by ourselves (1Co 13:12; 2Ti 3:7)
 - But to grow in grace and knowledge of Christ requires we study the Scriptures and learn to differentiate good from evil through experience guided by Christ & Spirit (He 5:14; 2Pe 3:14-18)

Goal of Peirasmoi: Joy in Christ

- For the joy that was before Him, Christ endured the stauros: we are that joy if we are in Him (Eph 4:11-16; He 12:1-2)
 - For us to experience His joy He has given apostles, prophets, evangelists, and shepherd-teachers
 - To build the body of Christ via His word into the fullness of Christ so that we, like Peter, may learn to recognize and reject the ever changing winds of false doctrines that lead the simple into great calamity