

The King's Highway.

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness.

And an Highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The Way of Holiness—Isa. 35-8.

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NO. 4

AND THE LORD SAID, SIMON, SIMON,
SATAN HATH DESIRED TO HAVE YOU,
THAT HE MAY SIFT YOU AS WHEAT.

But I Have Prayed for Thee, That Thy Faith Fail Not
and When Thou Art Converted, Strengthen
Thy Brethren.---Luke 22, 31-32.

This is one of the greatest and most eventful chapters in the New Testament. The circumstances throughout, and when we read and consider the situations, and of the persons, and their purposes, we can easily see that there are two great powers represented, and Satan as the aggressor, with astonishing boldness attacking the Lord's most intimate followers in his very presence, and in one of the most sacred services instituted by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Here were the chief priests and scribes, the men holding the highest positions lined up on the side of the devil seeking an opportunity to kill Christ. Satan entered into Judas, and got him in league with the chief priests and captains in their schemes to betray Jesus.

After Jesus and his disciples had assembled, he said unto them, "I have heartily desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer." He passed the sentence of woe upon Judas.

Where there is strife among brethren, the devil has already got in his work.—See Verse 24.

But the Lord dealt with them kindly, for he knew all about it, but they like people in the churches now, did not realize that the ambition to be the leader and to fill the highest places was Satan's way of creating strife among them. Evidently Peter was most deeply implicated in it, for the Lord turned to him in the words the heading of these notes.

Simon, Simon, Behold! Open your eyes: Look and see! No doubt Simon was surprised and called out, "Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both to prison and to death." But the Lord had another surprise for Peter, "And he said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me."

How many Peters have gone down in

disgrace and defeat, because they knew not their own poor hearts, doubtless Peter meant all right, but Peter did not know Peter as the Lord knew him.

What was the matter with Peter?

What is the matter with you that makes you break at the testing points, and drives you so frequently to the place of bitter tears?

How do you stand that look that the Lord gave Peter?

They all forsook Him.

But the Lord did not forsake them. He knew where their weakness was located. He knew there was a time and place where the remedy would come.

"But I have prayed for Thee."

Brother, sister, Jesus prayed for you.—See St. John 17-20. Apply and appropriate the whole prayer, And when thou are converted, strengthen thy brethren.

When you get not only recovered, but when you have found the complete remedy yourself, strengthen thy brethren.

If any want to know what the Lord meant by these words to Peter just follow the incidents of his life and work and they will discover it.

Follow him to Pentecost and ever after. He was not only wonderfully helped and sustained himself but he was ever a great tower of strength to his brethren. There are many lessons we should learn from this chapter.

1st. The highest people as the world measures men, may be the enemies of Christ and to the way of the cross.

2nd. That Satan will attack people and sometimes overthrow those who are the most closely following Christ.

3rd. Where there is strife among brethren it is surely an evidence that the devil is getting in his work, even among the ministry.

4th. The Lord is ever patient with honest souls, who have not yet discovered that inborn sin is the general source of their weakness, and provision has been made for its eradication.

5th. There is a suggestion that Christian leaders need a spiritual fitting like Peter and 119 others obtained at Pentecost, and Apollos received after his experience at Ephesus. "And helped them much which had believed through grace."

6th. That brethren need to be strengthened, and they themselves scarcely realize that they need strength, which God can enable another to impart to them.

It was Christ and his chosen Apostles that the devil was most interested in. About 30 years after the above events Peter wrote: Likewise, ye younger, humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.

Casting all your care upon him, for he careth for you.

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour. Whom resist steadfast in the faith—I Peter 5-5-9.

Those who submit patiently to the dispensations of God's providence, He lifts up; those who lift themselves up, God thrusts down.—Dr. Adam Clarke.

Avoid drunkenness of your senses, and drunkenness of your souls, be not overcharged with the concerns of the world.—Dr. Adam Clarke.

No holiness man should be what men call small. The real experience will give a man of small stature, both size and weight.

Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God?—Paul.