



NEW ENON BAPTIST CHURCH

GUILTY BY AFFILIATION

Pastor Bernard Hamp

Luke 22:31-34 (KJV) | August 2, 2026

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

"But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted,
strengthen thy brethren."

Luke 22:32 (KJV)

Sermon Summary

In Luke 22:31-34, Jesus warns Simon Peter that Satan desires to sift the disciples as wheat. The pressure is real, but the enemy does not have the final word. Before Peter faces the test, Jesus has already prayed for him. Christ knows Peter will stumble, yet He also sees Peter returning, becoming stronger, and helping other believers.

The title *Guilty By Affiliation* calls attention to what it means to be connected with Jesus. Peter's relationship with Christ placed him under scrutiny. Later, people recognized that Peter had been with Jesus, and fear tempted him to deny the very affiliation that should have been his testimony. Believers may also face pressure because their lives, speech, choices, and loyalties identify them with Christ.

The message of the passage is not that failure is harmless. Peter's confidence in himself could not carry him through the trial. Still, Jesus did not discard him. Christ's intercession preserved Peter's faith, and restoration gave Peter a responsibility: "when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren." A fall does not have to become the final chapter when a believer repents, returns to Christ, and allows the lesson to become help for someone else.

Study note: This guide summarizes the confirmed sermon title and biblical text. It is a study resource, not a verbatim reproduction of the YouTube captions.

Key Sermon Notes

1. Affiliation With Jesus Will Be Noticed

Following Christ is more than a private label. Our speech, conduct, priorities, and love for others should reveal that we have been with Jesus.

2. The Enemy Wants to Sift Believers

Jesus did not hide the spiritual conflict from Peter. Sifting shakes, separates, and exposes what is dependable. Trials reveal whether confidence rests in self or in Christ.

3. Jesus Prays Before the Trial Arrives

Peter entered the test with an Advocate already interceding for him. The enemy's desire was strong, but Christ's prayer and purpose were stronger.

4. Self-Confidence Is Not the Same as Faith

Peter sincerely believed he was ready for prison and death, but sincerity alone did not prepare him. Spiritual strength grows through humility, prayer, obedience, and dependence on God.

5. Failure Does Not Cancel Christ's Calling

Jesus predicted the denial without erasing Peter's future. Christ saw the failure, the return, and the ministry that would come after restoration.

6. Return to Christ After You Fall

“When thou art converted” points to turning back. Shame says to hide; grace calls us to repent, receive forgiveness, and resume faithful discipleship.

7. Strengthen Others With What God Taught You

Restored believers should not waste the lesson. Peter’s experience equipped him to encourage people who would face fear, pressure, temptation, and failure.

8. Do Not Deny the One Who Claims You

Peter’s fear caused him to distance himself from Jesus. Believers are called to stand with Christ openly, even when affiliation costs popularity, comfort, or approval.

Life Application

- Ask whether your daily choices clearly show that you are affiliated with Jesus.
- Replace self-confidence with prayer and dependence on the Holy Spirit.
- Identify a place where fear has tempted you to hide your faith.
- When you fail, repent and return instead of allowing shame to isolate you.
- Use a lesson God taught you to strengthen another believer this week.
- Remember that Christ's intercession is greater than the enemy's accusation.

Memory Verse

“But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.” - Luke 22:32 (KJV)

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for knowing our weaknesses and still praying for us. Help us stand firm when our faith is tested. Forgive us for the times fear, pride, or pressure has caused us to deny You through our words or actions. Restore us when we fall, strengthen our faith, and use our experiences to encourage others. Let our lives clearly show that we belong to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Sermon Study Questions

Circle one answer for each question. The website version checks answers immediately and displays your score.

1. What did Satan desire to do to the disciples?

- A. Sift them as wheat
- B. Make them rulers
- C. Send them home
- D. Give them riches

2. What did Jesus say He had prayed for concerning Peter?

- A. That his faith would not fail
- B. That he would never face trouble
- C. That everyone would praise him
- D. That he would become wealthy

3. What was Peter told to do after he returned?

- A. Strengthen his brethren
- B. Leave the disciples
- C. Hide his failure
- D. Seek revenge

4. What did Jesus predict Peter would do before the rooster crowed?

- A. Deny knowing Jesus three times
- B. Preach three sermons
- C. Leave Jerusalem forever
- D. Defeat every enemy

5. What should a restored believer do with the lessons learned through failure?

- A. Use them to strengthen others
- B. Pretend the failure never happened
- C. Judge everyone else
- D. Stop serving completely

Reflection

How will you show your affiliation with Jesus and strengthen someone else this week?

Answer Key

1-A | 2-A | 3-A | 4-A | 5-A