

The hard sayings of Jesus

“He replied, “ I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.” Luke 10:18

- 1) Be open to your traditions, preconceptions, and prejudices being challenged.
- 2) Ask the Holy Spirit for understanding
- 3) Relentlessly dig and search the kingdom truth and the knowledge of God.
- 4) Learn about differences linguistically and culturally that affect your understanding.
- 5) Humble yourself and allow Jesus’ words supremacy in your life.

CONTEXT BEFORE THE VERSE: Luke 10: 1-17

-see also Matthew 11:20-28, Mark 6:6-13

-Jesus sends out 72 disciples to the areas where he will be going

-like lambs among wolves

- when you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is set before you, heal the sick, tell them that the Kingdom of God is near you. (vs 8-9)

-judgement to cities that reject the message

-Matt 11:20: Then Jesus began to denounce the cities in which most of his miracles had been performed, because they did not repent. Korazin, Bethsaida, Capernaum.

- vs 16, he who listens to you listens to me, he who rejects you rejects me, but he who rejects me rejects him who sent me.

- vs 17 the 72 disciples returned with joy and said, “ Lord even the demons submit to us in your name.”

LUKE 10:18 He replied, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven”

When did it happen?

- 1) In the beginning, before creation? This is how I saw it upon first reading it, that Satan was cast out of fellowship from heaven down to earth. Satan’s pride and desire to be god led to his being cast out of heaven

Isaiah 14:12-17

How you have fallen from heaven,

O morning star, son of the dawn

You have been cast down to the earth,

You who once laid low the nations!

You said in your heart,

I will ascend to heaven.

I will raise my throne
Above the stars of God;
I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly,
On the utmost heights of the sacred mountain.
I will ascend above the tops of the clouds.
I will make myself like the Most High,
But you are brought down to the grave,
To the depths of the pit.

2) During the time of Jesus' life on earth

Article by FF Bruce, a Scottish Biblical scholar, author, lived from 1910-1990

So when Jesus speaks of seeing Satan's fall from heaven he is not thinking of an event in the remote past. He is thinking of the effect of his ministry at the time. He had sent out seventy of his disciples to spread the announcement that the kingdom of God had drawn near, and now they had come back from their mission in great excitement. 'Why,' they said, 'even the demons are subject to us in your name!' To this Jesus replied, 'I watched how Satan fell, like lightning, out of the sky' (NEB). It is implied that he was watching for this when suddenly, like a flash of lightning, it happened; Satan plummeted - whether to earth or down to the abyss is not said. Jesus may be describing an actual vision which he experienced during the mission of the seventy - not unlike the vision seen by John of Patmos, when, as he says, war broke out in heaven 'and the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world' (Rev. 12:9). When Jesus's messengers found that the demons - malignant forces that held men and women in bondage - were compelled to obey them as they commanded them, in Jesus's name, to come out of those people in whose lives they had taken up residence, this was a sign that the kingdom of God was conquering the kingdom of evil. Many of the rabbis held that, at the end of the age, God or the Messiah would overthrow Satan: the report of the seventy showed that Satan's overthrow had already taken place; and Jesus's vision of his fall from heaven confirmed this. John's Patmos version of Satan being ejected similarly indicates that his downfall was the direct result of Jesus's ministry. So

too, when Jesus says in John 12:31 'Now shall the ruler of this world be cast out', the adverb 'now' refers to his impending passion, which crowned his ministry.

3) After Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey (Palm Sunday), the week before his death and resurrection, this event took place:

John 12:27-33 "Now my heart is troubled, and what should I say? "Father, save me from this hour?" No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!" Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; other said an angel had spoken. Jesus said," This voice was for your benefit, not mine. **Now it the time for judgement on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out.** But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself" He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die. (Emphasis mine)

Application for us now

1) Jesus' supremacy

Colossians 1:15-20 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, weather things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

-his supremacy over Satan and demons

2) Warning against pride

Luke 10:19-20 I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.

pride can happen very easily, the disciples witnessed God's power through them, also for us we can easily put ourselves above God in our own mind and heart.

-Jesus told them to rejoice in their names being written in heaven. This was Jesus' doing: the gift of eternal life through the sacrifice he was making to pay the price for sin.

2) We should not be naïve about the spiritual battle we are in currently.

- Jesus sends the disciples out as sheep among wolves

- John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

- Jesus is our savior, sustainer. Psalm 91:9-13

If you make the Most High your dwelling-

Even the Lord, who is my refuge-

Then no harm will befall you,

No disaster will come near your tent.

For he will command his angels concerning you

To guard you in all your ways;

They will lift you up in their hands,

So that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

You will tread upon the lion and the cobra;

You will trample the great lion and the serpent.