

Chapter 25

Get Behind Me, Satan!

BIBLE

Peter and John were going up into the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour.¹

The priest said to them, “Go in peace. Your way in which you go is before Yahweh.”² Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive gifts for the needy.³

He said, “Appoint me your wages, and I will give it.”⁴ Honor Yahweh with your substance, with the first fruits of all your increase.”⁵

Peter, fastening his eyes on him, with John, said, “Look at us.”⁶ But his face fell at that saying, and he went away sorrowful, for he was one who had great possessions.⁷

COMMENTARY

¹ **Acts 3:1** [*“Peter” is Beatle insider Peter Brown*] Peter Brown was best man at John’s wedding to Yoko Ono in 1969. He has the tremendous good fortune to be name-checked in a Beatle song (“The Ballad of John And Yoko”): “Peter Brown called to say ‘You can make it OK, you can get married in Gibraltar near Spain’.”

² **Judges 18:6**

³ **Acts 3:3**

⁴ **Genesis 30:28**

⁵ **Proverbs 3:9**

⁶ **Acts 3:4** In this instance, Peter is more interested in being seen with a celebrity like John than he is in helping the needy. He is stuck in a fear based state of consciousness.

⁷ **Mark 10:22** “When your prized possessions start to wear you down, look in my direction,” John preaches in “And Your Bird Can Sing.” Peter’s false self, his ego, is telling him that his value lies in how important his friends are, and in how much wealth he has accumulated. The false self, separate from God, is warning him that he needs to hang on to his possessions because there may not be enough to go around.

Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and served him.⁸ The first went, and poured out his bowl into the earth, and it became a harmful and evil sore on the people who had the mark of the beast, and who worshiped his image.⁹

Yahweh's angel encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.¹⁰ He spoke this parable. "A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it, and found none."¹¹

Peter answered him, "Explain the parable to us."¹² But he turned, and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me, for you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of men."¹³

"Get wisdom. Get understanding. Don't forget, neither swerve from the words of my mouth."¹⁴ Wake up, and keep the things that remain, which you were about to throw away, for I have found no works of yours perfected before my God.¹⁵

"Now the Lord is the Spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."¹⁶ But be careful that by no means does this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to the weak.¹⁷

⁸ **Matthew 4:11** "The devil" is a state of mind created by thoughts that originate from the false self, the ego. The angels, led by John, will be helping Peter to undergo a shift in perception, bringing him more into alignment with his real self, his soul.

⁹ **Revelation 16:2** [*"The first" is John, the first angel*] The "beast" is our unevolved, animalistic nature. People who have the "mark of the beast" are those who are stuck in wrong thinking, with their priorities out of order. Safety and survival are their greatest needs, and they try to do things in their own, human way rather than through God's way. Instead of following spiritual law, they obey the "law of the jungle."

¹⁰ **Psalm 34:7** [*"Yahweh's angel" is John*] Fear in this sense means a healthy respect and understanding of spiritual law.

¹¹ **Luke 13:6**

¹² **Matthew 15:15**

¹³ **Matthew 16:23** John is urging Peter to set his mind on the things of God and put "Satan," or devilish thoughts, behind him.

¹⁴ **Proverbs 4:5**

¹⁵ **Revelation 3:2** "You may be awoken, I'll be 'round" John lets us know in "And Your Bird Sing."

¹⁶ **2 Corinthians 3:17**

¹⁷ **1 Corinthians 8:9**

“In all things I gave you an example, that so laboring you ought to help the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'¹⁸

“Your riches are corrupted and your garments are moth-eaten.¹⁹ He who loves silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he who loves abundance, with increase: this also is vanity.²⁰

“A stingy man is eager to get rich and is unaware that poverty awaits him.²¹ For where jealousy and selfish ambition are, there is confusion and every evil deed.²² Give to him who asks you, and don't turn away him who desires to borrow from you.²³

“Misfortune pursues sinners, but prosperity rewards the righteous.²⁴ He who has a generous eye will be blessed; for he shares his food with the poor.²⁵

“One who is greedy stirs up strife; but one who trusts in Yahweh will prosper.²⁶ Let each man give according as he has determined in his heart; not grudgingly, or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver.”²⁷

Then he said to him, “Come home with me, and eat bread.²⁸ You are already pruned clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.²⁹

¹⁸ **Acts 20:35** Mother Teresa: “It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving.”

¹⁹ **James 5:2** Andy Stanley: “Greed is not a financial issue. It's a heart issue.”

²⁰ **Ecclesiastes 5:10** Maya Angelou: “I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver.”

²¹ **Proverbs 28:22** John's “Mean Mister Mustard” is so stingy he “sleeps in the park” and “shaves in the dark, trying to save paper.”

²² **James 3:16** Dave Ramsey: “When people get scared, they quit giving”

²³ **Matthew 5:42** Winston Churchill: “We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.”

²⁴ **Proverbs 13:21** Mary Anne Radmacher: “As we work to create light for others, we naturally light our own way.”

²⁵ **Proverbs 22:9** Robert Kiyosaki: “You make more money if you are generous.”

²⁶ **Proverbs 28:25** Living at higher consciousness brings true prosperity.

²⁷ **2 Corinthians 9:7** Philo: “Those who give hoping to be rewarded with honor are not giving, they are bargaining.”

²⁸ **1 Kings 13:15** “Bread” represents the presence of spirit.

²⁹ **John 15:3**

“I will pray to the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, that he may be with you forever³⁰ - the Spirit of truth, whom the world can’t receive; for it doesn’t see him, neither knows him. You know him, for he lives with you, and will be in you.”³¹

Having said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.³² When evening came, he went out of the city.³³

There was much murmuring among the multitudes concerning him. Some said, “He is a good man.” Others said, “Not so, but he leads the multitude astray.”³⁴ He is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”³⁵

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “You rulers of the people, and elders of Israel,³⁶ if this man were not from God, he could do nothing!”³⁷

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell on all those who heard the word.³⁸ When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard, and had sat down together, Peter sat among them.³⁹ He therefore answered, “I don’t know if he is a sinner. One thing I do know: that though I was blind, now I see!”⁴⁰

³⁰ **John 14:16** The “Counselor” is Peter Brown’s own higher self, the indwelling Christ presence.

³¹ **John 14:17** In his solo hit “Instant Karma!” John affirms that the Christ presence, the Spirit of truth, is in every one of us: “We all shine on...[we are] surely not to live in pain and fear.” He reminds us, however, that we have to act on this truth if it is to set us free: “You better get yourself together...what in the world you thinking of, laughing in the face of love?...join the human race...it’s up to you.” “Instant Karma!” was released in February 1970, two months before the Beatles officially broke up.

³² **Luke 19:28** [*“He” is John*]

³³ **Mark 11:19**

³⁴ **John 7:12**

³⁵ **James 1:8** “Although I laugh and I act like a clown, beneath this mask I am wearing a frown,” John confesses in “I’m A Loser.”

³⁶ **Acts 4:8**

³⁷ **John 9:33**

³⁸ **Acts 10:44** The consciousness of the group is lifted up.

³⁹ **Luke 22:55**

⁴⁰ **John 9:25** Despite his flaws, John completed his mission. He was able to open our eyes to a more enlightened way to live.