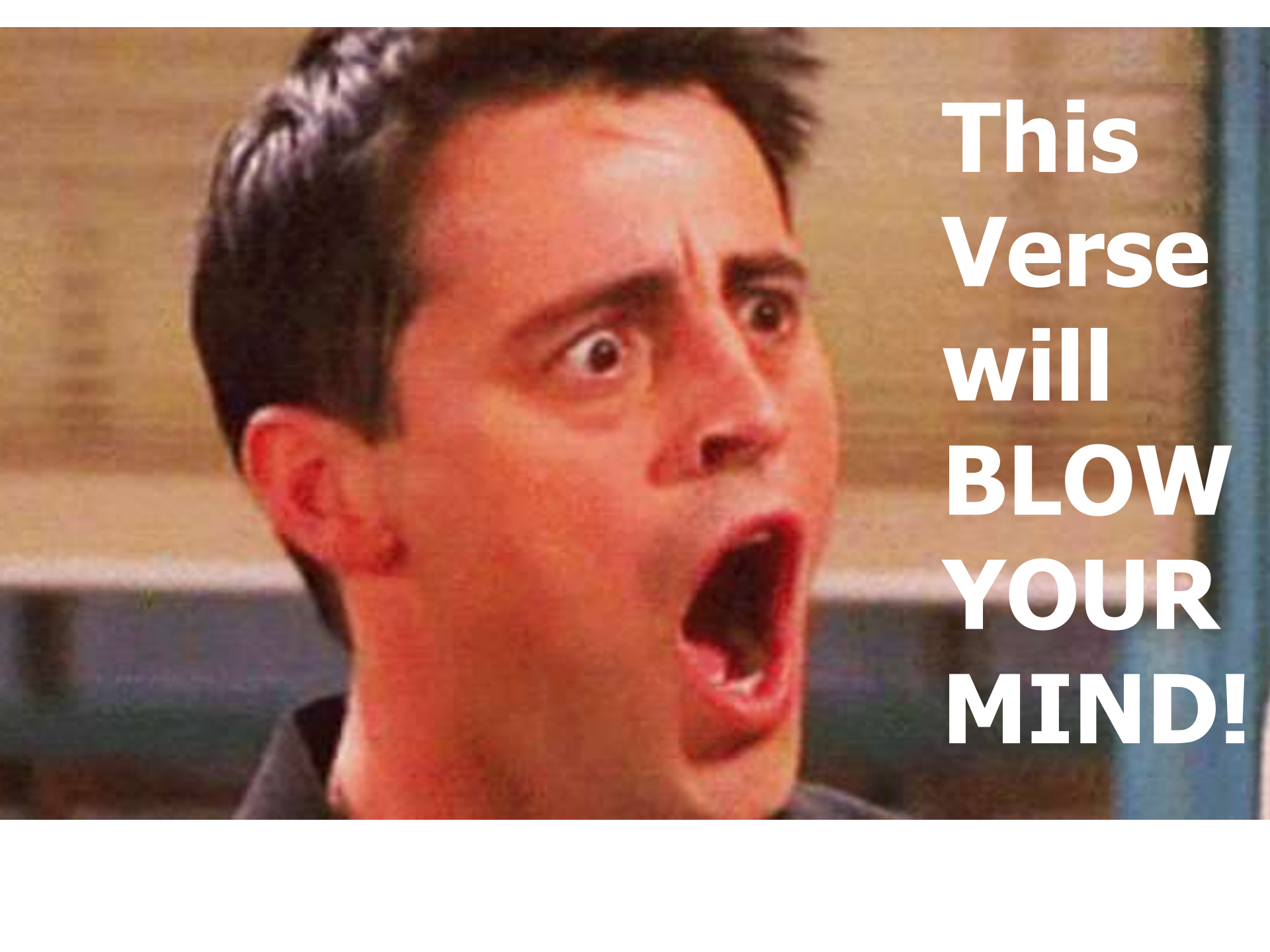


Mind-Blowing Message

A close-up photograph of a man with dark hair, looking upwards and to the right with a wide-eyed, open-mouthed expression of shock or awe. The background is a blurred indoor setting.

**This
Verse
will
BLOW
YOUR
MIND!**



Luke 22:31 - 32

31 “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has [d]demanded *permission* to sift you like wheat; **32** but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”



Wait, What?

- 31 “**Simon, Simon, behold, Satan** **has** [d]**demanded *permission* to sift** you like wheat;
- What do you think this means, and why is it important, especially right now?
- It means that Satan has to **ask permission from King Jesus** before he can do ANYTHING, EVER on this earth or in our lives. He doesn't have ultimate control over ANYTHING!!!
- Has anyone ever explained this to you before?



But it Gets Crazier

- **³² but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail;**
- Oh, yeah, Peter, I said YES, bring it on!!
- Jesus didn't rebuke the devil, he empowered the devil.
- And told Peter He was praying for him, and it would be ok.



Because there is a purpose

- **And you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”**
- Peter you are going to experience a shaking, a really rough time (at the hands of Satan who I have permitted to do this to you)
- But you will be restored, and when you are, you will be a different person; someone who can strengthen others.



Does This Really Happen???

⁶ Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and ^[b]Satan also came among them. ⁷ The LORD said to Satan, “From where do you come?” Then Satan answered the LORD and said, “From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it.” ⁸ The LORD said to Satan, “Have you ^[c]considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, ^[d]fearing God and turning away from evil.” ⁹ Then Satan answered the ^[e]LORD, “Does Job fear God for nothing? ¹⁰ Have You not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. ¹¹ But put forth Your hand now and touch all that he has; he will surely curse You to Your face.” ¹² Then the LORD said to Satan, “**Behold, all that he has is in your ^[f]power, only do not put forth your hand on him.**” So Satan departed from the presence of the LORD.



So, There You Are

- Evidence that Satan's ability to operate on this earth is limited to boundaries that God defines and firmly enforces. King Jesus exercises total authority over Satan, and he has **no power** on his own, and must get God's permission to act.
- That is blatantly obvious from these two passages, but there a lot of other verses to back this up, and we will get to them eventually.
- It is important that we understand this, because this is not what most of us believe, or we don't act like we believe this most of the time.





We Have Been Deceived

- **Manicheanism** – very weird, mildly popular, completely heretical religious sect during 4th – 7th century AD.
- One major principle was **Dualism** – the notion that the universe is caught in a battle between two equal but diametrically opposing forces – Darkness vs Light (or Evil vs Goodness) and the supernatural beings that represent them
- And here is the kicker – according to Dualism, the battle is still going on today and it is not clear at any point in time which side will win!



Dualism is Alive in the Church Today

- I sometimes experience it in my thinking and emotions, but I also see it plastered all over social media, as sincere, dedicated, Bible-believing, Spirit-filled Christians trade anguished updates with each other regarding the often very scary and tragic things going on around us.
- “Look at these riots, look at the economy getting wrecked by the virus, look at all the terrible things the media is saying. The Devil is having a field day!!
- If we don’t do something; if we don’t get organized and get busy and call out the prayer warriors and stand up to the Devil he is going to destroy God’s plan. Satan is going to WIN!!!”
- I have finally realized that when I see this thinking in myself or others, it means one thing: **We are operating out of fear; we have lost our confidence in the power, the faithfulness, the promises and the sovereignty of God!**



Reality Check

- I am not saying there are not crazy, scary, disruptive things going on the world right now, OR MOST OF THE TIME, for that matter.
- But as we have seen in Luke 22 and Job 1, it is **NOT POSSIBLE** for Satan to undermine or overthrow the plans of God. He has to ask permission to go to the bathroom!!, so whatever is going on, God knows, God is sovereign, God is faithful, and the devil can't win because He has already lost. It was never even a fair fight.
- God does have a plan, and **Satan CAN'T Win!**



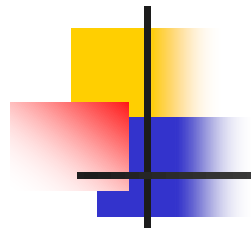
It Is (almost) Finished?

- 1 John 3:7 - The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to **destroy the works of the devil (devastate, wipe out**
- From the Cross Jesus declared, **"IT IS FINISHED!!"**
- Sometimes we act like, well, it isn't exactly finished. Kinda looks like the Devil still has a lot of power and is completely out of control, so what shall we do?
- Tinker Bell routine – Let's clap for Jesus. Come on Jesus, we believe in you, hang in there Jesus, you can do it!
- WHAT PART OF "IT IS FINISHED" DO WE NOT UNDERSTAND?!?!?
- I am not saying there is nothing wrong going on right now, I am saying there is **Nothing to FEAR!!!!** It is time to start acting like the overcomers we already ARE!



We do have a role in this

- Nobody understood it better than Martin Luther:
- “Why should you fear? Why should you be afraid? Do you not know that the prince of this world has been judged? He is no lord, no prince any more. You have a different, a stronger Lord, Christ, who has **overcome and bound him**. Therefore let the prince and god of this world look sour, bare his teeth, make a great noise, threaten, and act in an unmannerly way; he can do no more than a bad dog on a chain, which may bark, run here and there, and tear at the chain. But because it is tied and you avoid it, it **cannot bite you.**”
- This world is about to be shaken, need to be ready to war with confidence, explore that next week. **STAND UP**



Jesus + Nothing = EVERYTHING

- deeply loved by God,
- fully accepted by God,
- completely and permanently forgiven by God,
- lavishly blessed by God,
- and eternally, perfectly embraced by God as his child; a child who brings Him unspeakable JOY