

**"The Believer's Duty"**

**Part 5**

**1 Peter 2:11-3:12**

**Introduction:** In our study of 1 Peter we have been looking at the believer's duty to submit to those who are in authority over us. Peter has exhorted his readers to submit to the government over them and he also exhorts those who were servants or slaves to submit to their masters. This applies even when if the authority is harsh and unfair. Peter explains that God is glorified when His children suffer for doing good.

**Notice 1 Peter 2:20**

When a believer lives righteously, and they suffer for that, and they take the suffering patiently then they are demonstrating that their commitment to God is greater than their desires to retaliate. This is what is honoring to the Lord. For those who are walking in the Spirit there is a joy in partaking of the sufferings of Jesus Christ.

**Acts 5:27-29, 40-42**

*<sup>27</sup> And when they had brought them, they set them before the council: and the high priest asked them,*

*<sup>28</sup> Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us.*

*<sup>29</sup> Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.*

*<sup>40</sup> And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.*

*<sup>41</sup> And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.*

*<sup>42</sup> And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.*

Notice what Paul wrote to the Philippians concerning suffering for Jesus:

**Philippians 3:9-11**

<sup>9</sup> And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

<sup>10</sup> That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

<sup>11</sup> If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

Here in these verses Paul confesses to the Philippians his desire to know Jesus Christ in a deeper way. When he confesses that he desires to know the fellowship of His sufferings, he is not referring to Jesus' sufferings on the cross because he could never know what that was like. He instead is referring to Jesus sufferings in His service. The Apostle Paul longed to know Jesus so much that he was willing to suffer for His sake in order to get to know Jesus on a deeper level. Paul longed to be like Jesus so much that he wanted to be made conformable to His death. Just as Jesus died FOR sin so wanted in the same way to die TO sin. Paul wanted to be cut off from his former sinful way of living and to be daily set apart from sin and thus demonstrate the resurrection power living within him.

**Application:**

If this was the desire of every believer, then we too would see suffering as a gift and a privilege. But the problem today is that we have been raised to believe that as US believers we should never have to suffer. We have been raised to believe that suffering is something that early Christians experienced, and it will never be a part of our lives. This way of thinking has distorted what the Bible teaches concerning suffering.

I have said it before, and I believe it is true that if the Lord tarries, then the church in the US will be tested. We have never been tested with sufferings. We experience personal tests but as a body of believers we have never been tested as many previous believers were or even as many today in foreign countries are.

In the verses which we have come to tonight we see the Example which every believer is to follow when suffering comes.

**"The Example of our Lord"**

**Notice 1 Peter 2:21**

There are two ways to look at the opening statement of this verse. Both have the same purpose.

1. We have been called as believers to glorify God in the sufferings which we face.

2. We have been called to emulate Jesus Christ and His character when faced with suffering. (This will result in the glorifying God.)

**Notice 1 Peter 2:21 again.**

The word "example" is found only here in the New Testament. The word has a very interesting meaning:

***"a writing copy, including all the letters of the alphabet, given to beginners as an aid in learning to draw them."***

The idea is that Jesus left us a drawing with His own life, and we are to duplicate the drawing with our own lives. We are to handle suffering in a way that when our sees us they can read of Jesus in our lives.

### **1. The Sinlessness of the Savior**

**Notice 1 Peter 2:22**

When Jesus walked the earth He never once sinned and there was never once any guile in His mouth which means he never once spoke Words of deception. He spoke only the Truth for He was the Source of all Truth.

**John 14:6**

*<sup>6</sup> Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

He spoke the absolute Truth and Jesus lived a sinless life.

**2 Corinthians 5:21**

*<sup>21</sup> For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

Jesus was sinless and perfect. If He was not, then we are wasting our time by being here. God required a sinless Substitute to die in our place to pay the wages of sin. No man would qualify because all men are born with a sin nature, all are born sinners. We inherit our sin nature from our earthly fathers and so we are all sinners. The only Person who would qualify to die for us was God, but God is a Spirit, and a spirit cannot die. In order for death to occur a person must have a human body because death happens when the body and the spirit are separated. Death means, "separation". So God took upon Himself a human body known as Jesus. Jesus had no earthly father, but He had God as His Father, so He was born without a sin nature. He then lived here for 33 years and never once did He sin in deed or thought. He went to the cross as our sinless Substitute, and He died for our sins.

It was on the cross that He who knew no sin took upon Himself all of our sins and paid our sin debt.

**Isaiah 53:4-6**

<sup>4</sup> Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

<sup>5</sup> But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

<sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

**2. The Details**

- a. He never reviled those who reviled Him, and He never threatened when He suffered.

**Notice 1 Peter 2:23**

Jesus was verbally abused and ridiculed on many occasions, but Jesus never railed on them. The word "reviled" is a very strong word, it means to subject one to verbal abuse, and thus to reproach, vilify, speak in a highly insulting manner, insult strongly. One man defined revile as "a harsher railing, which not only rebukes a man but also sharply bites him, and stamps him with open harsh language. It is to wound a man with an accursed sting."

Jesus came to save men from their sin and instead of being received with joy and gladness He was rejected and reviled by many instead. Let us notice some verses that describe how Jesus was treated.

**Psalm 38:12-14**

<sup>12</sup> They also that seek after my life lay snares for me: and they that seek my hurt speak mischievous things, and imagine deceits all the day long.

<sup>13</sup> But I, as a deaf man, heard not; and I was as a dumb man that openeth not his mouth.

<sup>14</sup> Thus I was as a man that heareth not, and in whose mouth are no reproofs.

**Isaiah 53:7**

*<sup>7</sup> He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.*

Let us notice an example of what our Lord endured:

**Matthew 27:39-44**

*<sup>39</sup> And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads,*

*<sup>40</sup> And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross.*

*<sup>41</sup> Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said,*

*<sup>42</sup> He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him.*

*<sup>43</sup> He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God.*

*<sup>44</sup> The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth.*

**b. He surrendered Himself to the Father**

**Notice 1 Peter 2:23 again.**

The verse could read that He "kept on committing Himself". The idea is that with each situation that our Lord faced He would then commit the situation to the Father. Someone has said this pictures Jesus surrendering Himself to His Father's righteous judgment again and again, as one unfounded injustice after another was hurled at Him.

**Application:**

This, Peter says, is the very life we are to live as we are faced with situations where we are reviled and when we suffer for doing what is right. I need to add that this is only possible when we are under the control of the Holy Spirit. The flesh despises this kind of treatment, and the flesh will lead us to revile in return and to inflict suffering in return.

**Matthew 5:38-39, 43-48**

*<sup>38</sup> Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth:*

<sup>39</sup> *But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.*

<sup>43</sup> *Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.*

<sup>44</sup> *But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;*

<sup>45</sup> *That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.*

<sup>46</sup> *For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?*

<sup>47</sup> *And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so?*

<sup>48</sup> *Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.*

**c. The focus of our Savior.**

**Notice 1 Peter 2:24**

Jesus knew what He would encounter when He came into this world. His mission was not to come to judge those who would reject and revile Him. His mission was to get to the cross where He would take upon Himself the sins of the world and shed His blood to pay man's sin debt. The people He encountered along the way would be used by God to carry out the plan of salvation.

**Acts 2:22-23**

<sup>22</sup> *Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:*

<sup>23</sup> *Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:*

The judgment of those who would reject and revile Him would come at a later date. He would focus on extending grace to the world when He came the first time. But there is coming a day when the judgment will come. The Father will have record of the sins of those who rejected Him, and they will all be exposed at the Great White throne Judgment.

**Revelation 20:11-15**

*<sup>11</sup> And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.*

*<sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.*

*<sup>13</sup> And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.*

*<sup>14</sup> And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*

*<sup>15</sup> And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

**Notice 1 Peter 2:24 again.**

Jesus was focused upon the cross so that we could be free to live lives of righteousness that would bring glory to Him. In other words He died to set us free from the flesh so that we could be as He was when we are mistreated for doing what is right.

**Conclusion:**

**d. The results of our Savior's finished work.**

**Notice 1 Peter 2:25**

When we read this verse, we must understand that if our Lord had not been submissive, we would be lost in our sins. We now have a Shepherd and an Overseer of our souls. As Overseer He provides direction for us and warning when there is danger.

**Application:**

How many lives might be changed if we too practice the same grace which our Lord did? We cannot save one person, but we can show forth Jesus when we patiently endure suffering for the Lord's sake.