

"The Believer's Suffering"

Part 14

1 Peter 3:13-5:14

Introduction: Last week in our study of 1 Peter we looked at Peter's exhortations to the leadership in the church and to those under the leadership.

Notice 1 Peter 5:1-5

Peter knew that if the church was going to be healthy everyone in the church had to exercise the heart of a servant and the leadership needed to set the example.

Notice 1 Peter 5:5 again.

I want you to see that Peter calls upon ALL to be submissive and to be humble. He calls upon the church to be clothed in humility. This is the opposite of what we see in the world. Pride is every where in our world and therefore when the church is CLOTHED with humility that places it on display for the world to see. This is to be done so that the world will see this and long to be part of it. Peace, joy and contentment are attractive to the world because they know nothing of these.

John 13:34-35

³⁴ *A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.*

³⁵ *By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*

John 17:20-23

²⁰ *Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;*

²¹ *That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.*

²² *And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:*

²³ *I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.*

Now as we move on in chapter 5, we shall see that Peter is going to transition back to their suffering.

I. Trusting the Lord when Life is Difficult

Notice 1 Peter 5:6

This verse helps us to see that what these believers were facing was permitted by God. Let us be reminded of Peter's words earlier.

1 Peter 4:12

¹² Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

Peter tells them that what they were facing was a fiery trial. Satan and his demons were behind the persecution, but God was in control of what was happening in their lives. Let us notice the conversation between Joseph and his brothers after Jacob had died.

Genesis 50:15-20

¹⁵ And when Joseph's brethren saw that their father was dead, they said, Joseph will peradventure hate us, and will certainly requite us all the evil which we did unto him.

¹⁶ And they sent a messenger unto Joseph, saying, Thy father did command before he died, saying,

¹⁷ So shall ye say unto Joseph, Forgive, I pray thee now, the trespass of thy brethren, and their sin; for they did unto thee evil: and now, we pray thee, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of thy father. And Joseph wept when they spake unto him.

¹⁸ And his brethren also went and fell down before his face; and they said, Behold, we be thy servants.

¹⁹ And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for am I in the place of God?

*²⁰ But as for you, **ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good**, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.*

All that Joseph went through was permitted by God and used for good of he and his family. Joseph suffered many hardships at the hands of others but at the right time God exalted him and made him the Prime Minister of Egypt.

Notice 1 Peter 5:6 again.

The reference to the "MIGHTY HAND OF GOD" is Old Testament terminology. It is a reference to God's mighty hand which brought Israel out of Egypt. Let me show you what Peter had in mind.

Deuteronomy 9:26

²⁶ *I prayed therefore unto the LORD, and said, O Lord GOD, destroy not thy people and thine inheritance, which thou hast redeemed through thy greatness, which thou hast brought forth out of Egypt with a mighty hand.*

Deuteronomy 11:2-3

² *And know ye this day: for I speak not with your children which have not known, and which have not seen the chastisement of the LORD your God, his greatness, his mighty hand, and his stretched out arm,*

³ *And his miracles, and his acts, which he did in the midst of Egypt unto Pharaoh the king of Egypt, and unto all his land;*

The idea which Peter is communicating is that the same MIGHTY GOD that brought Israel out of Egypt will deliver you from this trial. His power has not been diminished.

Notice 1 Peter 5:6 again.

Here we see that we too have the promise of exaltation in due time. Peter is telling his readers that they were to humble themselves in the situation they were in and allow God to do what He would do knowing that at the perfect time God would deliver them from the persecution and one day they would be exalted as the bride of Jesus Christ. Let us notice the words of Paul concerning the trials of life.

Romans 8:35-37

³⁵ *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

³⁶ *As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.*

³⁷ *Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.*

We are more than conquerors in the trials because ALL things work together for our good.

James 1:2-4

² *My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;*

³ *Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.*

⁴ *But **let** patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*

I put emphasis on the word "LET" because this tells us that we are to accept the trials as God's work shops where He chips away at our lives.

Getting back to Peter's words, we need to know that when the trials of life come we still are responsible to do what we can but there are just certain situations in life that we cannot change. There are people who cause pain and we can do nothing. That is when we are to surrender it all over to the Lord. Vengeance is not mine to seek but it is God's.

Romans 12:18-20

¹⁸ *If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.*

¹⁹ *Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, **Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.***

²⁰ *Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.*

Notice 1 Peter 5:7

Before we look at the first part of this verse let us consider the second part. **He careth for us!!** Let that sink in for a moment. The Creator of this world cares for us. This was foreign to Peter's readers who lived in the Roman Empire. Those who were lost were polytheistic, meaning they worshipped many gods. The gods they were worshipped were believed to be angry most of the time. To learn that the True God cared for His people would have been amazing to them. Not only did He care for them/us but He also loved them as He loved His own Son, Jesus.

John 17:20-23

²⁰ *Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;*

²¹ *That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.*

²² *And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:*

²³ *I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.*

We have a God that cares for us and a God that will never leave us and a God that is all mighty and powerful. What do we have to worry about? He can bring more than two million out of Egypt and sustain them in the wilderness for 40 years therefore He can surely meet our needs no matter what they might be. Let us notice a few verses from Psalm 37 that fit well with our text.

Psalm 37:1-7, 25-26

Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity.

² *For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb.*

³ *Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.*

⁴ *Delight thyself also in the LORD: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.*

⁵ *Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.*

⁶ *And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.*

⁷ *Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.*

²⁵ *I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.*

²⁶ *He is ever merciful, and lendeth; and his seed is blessed.*

Notice 1 Peter 5:7 again.

Because our Lord cares for we can cast ALL our care upon Him. The word "CARE" means "ANXIETY". It is to cast all our worry upon Him. This is part of being humble. It is admitting that we cannot carry the weight of the burden and then casting it completely upon the Lord.

Psalm 55:22-23

²² Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.

²³ But thou, O God, shalt bring them down into the pit of destruction: bloody and deceitful men shall not live out half their days; but I will trust in thee.

Let us notice the invitation given by Jesus.

Matthew 11:28-30

²⁸ Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Let us consider what worry is for a moment. It is simply unbelief. When we worry then we are not trusting and believing the promises of God. It is not believing that He can deliver us from the problem or that He cannot sustain us in the problem. Worry is sin. When faced with the trials in life we are to cast ALL our anxieties upon the Lord.

Proverbs 3:5-6

⁵ Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

⁶ In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Conclusion:

I will leave you with a remedy for worry which Paul gives us.

Philippians 4:6-9

⁶ Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

⁷ And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

⁹ Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.