
Jesus – Leaving an Example

1 Peter 2:20-25

NOTE This is not a full manuscript. One will be forthcoming after the message is transcribed.

Introduction The Bible is full of the pain of God's people being sinned against, being the object of someone else's sin. Joseph showed us the betrayal of family. David pleased God when pursued by authority. Habakkuk move from perplexity to praise in what appeared to be the baffling providences of God. Paul was sinned against even by those serving in ministry.

Here is what we have learned so far.

Living in fallenness and among sinners, we will be sinned against.

Others may intend evil, but God is intending and designing good.

God uses the sin of others to refine His children.

You do not own your own suffering; it is a stewardship for others.

Submit to God in both His providence and His provision.

Do not strike back, but rather await God's timing.

Be humble and lowly before God, allowing Him to defend you.

God is not limited to your agenda, to your perspective or your time line.

You must live through all the circumstances of life by faith.

You must examine yourself for your own sin.

You must see how accusing God or being angry with God is the fruit of idolatry.

You must bow before God alone and silence any words of rebellion in your heart or in your mouth.

See how God highlights the inward strength that He gives.

Experience the outward pressure of their sins as one way God releases His life giving power in other's lives.

These present difficulties have no weight when compared to future realities.

The passing things that often seem to be important have little value in contrast to eternal, heavenly treasures.

Now we come to our Lord on this topic and from this text. He has left us an example, the ultimate example, to follow in His suffering steps.

The Person Fulfilling our Suffering

I use this heading this way to draw attention to the connection to Christ from our previous' studies. All of the stories of pleasing God while in perplexity, pain and suffering, of being sinned against, point us to our Lord Jesus. He is true sinless sufferer.

Betrayed by His Own

Like Joseph, the Lord's own family did not understand and often rejected Him. Then in His greatest moment of need, His closest friends, His disciples all abandon Him. They sin against God, fleeing and following from a distance. One actively betrays Him and another actively denies Him. Only one is there at Calvary that terrible day.

Like Jesus, we may be betrayed by family and friends.

Humbled until God's Coronation

Like David, the Lord had a period of humiliation and condescension where His true identity is scorned and His kingship hidden. He humbles Himself and goes to a cross kind of death in view of a coronation that would come later.

Like Jesus, we must be humble and lowly until God is pleased to raise us up.

Suffered by God's Hand

Like Israel in Habakkuk, the Lord suffered under God's hand. He had no sin. He had no unrighteousness in Himself, yet He died horribly – physically and spiritually. God killed Jesus for the sake of His people's sins. God's great redeeming purpose was served in the heavy hand of eternal wrath poured out on Jesus' innocent head.

Like Jesus, we must bear in our body the suffering of sin until our resurrection in glory.

Resisted by God's Servants

Like Paul, the Lord is often suffering at the hands of those who supposed to in ministry. People serve for self, seeking a name, approval, recognition and power. Others sin against the Lord by trying minister with a false message or with un-biblical methods.

Like Jesus, we will sometimes be sinned against by people in ministry.

The Pattern of Jesus' Suffering

(v.21-25)

Here is the theology of suffering that is going to give meaning and purpose to the humbling submission whose evident end will be suffering.

Environment of His Suffering

(v.20)

Overarching assumption – you are not being sinned against when you are being punished for sin.

Doing good and suffer for it. This is where the grace of God is functioning – that you respond to suffering when doing good in a way that is pleasing to Him.

God's gaze is the ultimate environment of your being sinned against. In His sight, you must respond enabled by grace to His honor and glory.

Example of His Suffering

(v.21-23)

Submissive suffering is the mark of Biblical sacrifice.

Note particulars of Jesus' conduct: these are the very things we are prone to do: sin, lie, retaliate when insulted and threaten.

SIN – the general category of wrong responses in the midst of difficulty. You just must not sin when being sinned against.

DECEIT – to lie, misrepresent, color, spin or be dishonest. Careful consideration must be given to being truthful and honest so as not to cast ourselves in a better or different light.

REVILE – to verbally attack, insult, abuse, scorn or disparage someone. Even in the most extreme of being attacked, misrepresented and reviled, he did not and we must not respond in kind.

RETALIATE – Jesus' persecutors were being upheld in the existence and life by the Word of His power. We must not strike back to harm or destroy. The greatest temptation in this is when we know something that could destroy the other person.

Instead, Jesus trusted the rightness of God's immediate providence and long-term justice.

Enablement of His Sacrifice

(v.24)

Jesus' sacrifice makes possible the dying to self and the living to righteousness that suffering submission requires.

Jesus' own suffering had a greater end in view – our redemption and righteousness. If our being sinned against is to have meaning and significance, it must be placed squarely within the purposes, plans and providence of God.

Encouragement of His Shepherding

(v.25)

How prone we are to straying and how powerfully encouraging is Jesus' shepherding and overseeing in our lives.

Why does Peter introduce these two ideas here: Shepherding and Overseeing?

The Principles for our Suffering

Let's consider some principles that Jesus models for us.

Our Humility

If you must respond like this when you have done nothing wrong, how much more must you respond like this when chastened or corrected.

I want to be careful here. There is no special commendation for handling the suffering attendant to our correction and chastening well. This is expected and de-

manded. If we are to respond when we have done well this way, then how much more humble and self-effacing is to be our response when we are under the mighty hand of God.

Our Vulnerability

The suffering of being sinned against often will come when you are most vulnerable.

This text points to Jesus' suffering as an example when we are in positions of submission and are being sinned against.

Our Necessity

You have been called to suffering, to endure it righteously.

We have been "summoned" to endure suffering. We are called to be saved – we are called to suffer. One way God brings about death to self and life for others is through the suffering of being sinned against.

Our Purity

You must reject the tendencies of sin in the midst of being sinned against and respond righteously.

Peter selects in the Lord's example of purity what was needed to counter his own personal tendencies to sin. He responded to Jesus' arrest with violence, deceit and cursing. Jesus' look of correcting grace and love brought repentance. He never forgot it. And here, reminds us of it.

Our Redeemer and Ruler

In your being sinned against, you must return to the One you are saved and shepherded by.

O the sweetness that comes by leaning on Jesus, His saving power and His shepherding care, when it is hard. Yes, we have principles to guide us – but we are not moralists. Our righteous response to being sinned about is in relationship to our Redeemer and Ruler.

Conclusion

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