



Text: 1 Peter 2:19-25 (English Standard Version)

19 For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. 20 For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. 21 For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. 22 He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. 23 When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. 24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. 25 For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Getting to know me

1. Would you be willing to describe a time when you have been mistreated? What did that feel like? How did you respond?
2. Have there been other times when pain (either physical or emotional) has had an effect on your understanding of God or your relationship with Him?
3. Would you agree with Pastor Dean that the acid test of your faith is how you respond when you are mistreated? Why?

Into the Bible

1. In speaking of the “unjust suffering,” check the background of Peter’s words by looking at what Jesus said in Matt. 5:11. With these two passages in mind, what is the benefit of enduring suffering unjustly?

A note about “sorrows” (ESV), this is a better translation than “pain” (NIV). The word used refers to mental pain, or grief, or sorrow. It is not used to refer to physical pain. While some believers face physical persecution, we can identify with many kinds of “sorrows” that come because of our faith. What are some things that you have endured because of faith? Or have you faced some opposition simply for doing the “right thing” though it was not necessarily related to a Christian belief.

2. But even if the suffering is a “beating” (vs. 20) the Christian is to endure. Does this mean that we don’t have a right to defend ourselves, or to seek redress in court if we have been wronged physically or financially? Look at Romans 12:17-21 to see what it says about interpersonal matters.

3. WWJD, “What Would Jesus Do” was popular a few years ago, but it has been a guideline for our lives since Peter wrote this letter. We apply this saying to the many different quandaries that we face in life, but the specific situation being addressed is that we will suffer as believers. What can you do to not lose sight of Jesus when someone stands in your way of doing the right thing?

4. Christ’s suffering and death on the cross was to bear “our sins in his body on the tree.” What does our suffering accomplish?
I Pet. 1:6-7; 2:19; 3:9-12; 3:16-17; 4:1-2; 4:12-14; 4:16; 4:19; 5:8-10
Could suffering be one of the big themes in Peter’s letter? Also look at James 1:2-4; Heb. 10:32-36; I Cor. 4:8-10; I Cor. 4:16-18. The list could go on.

Application Questions

1. How can Jesus’ example help you when you face hardships that you have no control over?

2. Can you relate an experience you might be facing now in work, home, or friends where you face opposition to your actions, attitudes, or beliefs and how you think this Scripture will help you?

3. When we are seeking to lead someone to faith in Christ, we talk about the joy and peace we have as a Christian. What should we say about being called to suffer? Is that in the “small print?”