

The Suffering Servant: Our Perfect Standard
1 Peter 2:21-23

I. Introduction

A. Review: Section

1. v.13 SUBMIT = MAIN COMMAND for WHOLE section to 3:7
2. v.18 submit to masters / employers
3. v.20b-21a
 - a) 20b: But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God.
 - b) 21a: For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps.
 - c) He left behind for us a standard of how suffer unjustly and patiently endure it...

B. TURN TO 1 Peter 2:18-25

18 Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable. 19 For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a person bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly. 20 For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God. 21 For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, 22 WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH; 23 and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously; 24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed. 25 For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

C. Proposition: Study Jesus Christ, the Suffering Servant, who is our not only our Perfect Standard for enduring unjust suffering, but is also our Substitute and our Shepherd. Look at Him in 3 ways:

1. Our Perfect STANDARD (v.21-23)
2. Our Perfect SUBSTITUTE (v.24)
3. Our Perfect SHEPHERD (v.25)

D. Last Week:

1. **THE PATH TO GLORY FOR Jesus CHRIST WAS THE PATH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS (DOING RIGHT), SUFFERING FOR IT and ENDURING IT ALL by ENTRUSTING HIMSELF TO HIS FATHER.**
2. **SAME FOR US –**
 - a) **since we follow in His footsteps!**
 - b) **Since the enemies of Christ cannot get to Him, but still have great suffering they wish to inflict on Him, they persecute us instead.**

II. Our Standard

21 For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, 22 WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH; 23 and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting *Himself* to Him who judges righteously;

A. For you have been called for this purpose,

1. Literally: "For into this you have been called"
 - a) Order switched from NAS
 - b) "Purpose" is added but totally appropriate for the purpose clause here
 - c) Emphasis: Connecting THIS back to v.20 "doing right, suffering unjustly and patiently enduring"
2. "Called"
 - a) God did the calling
 - b) Called you from your unsaved state to salvation for the purpose of doing right, suffering unjustly and patiently enduring!
3. Your CALL at SALVATION was a CALL for a LIFE of OBEDIENCE (doing right), Suffering unjustly for it, patiently enduring ALL SO GOD

B. since Christ also suffered for you

1. What is the reason you suffer? Because Christ suffered for you
2. "Also" emphasizes the similarity of Christ's sufferings to ours.
3. "Christ"
 - a) Peter focuses on "Christ" rather than "Jesus Christ" when speaking of His suffering and redemptive death.
 - 1:11 seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating
 - 1:19 but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, *the blood of Christ*.
 - 3:18 For Christ also died for sins once for all,
 - 4:1 Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,
 - 4:13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing,
 - 4:14 If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed
 - 5:1 Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as *your* fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ,
 - b) Puts the emphasis on Christ as Redeemer, Messiah
 - c) Jesus is named over 280 times in the Epistles (Romans – Revelation)
 - (1) Only about 20 of those are just "Jesus"
 - (2) All the rest: Lord, Christ, Son of God, Savior
 - (3) ALWAYS emphasizing WHAT HE DID
 - (4) He's our Christ, Our MESSIAH, Our Savior
 - (5) He's our Lord / He's the Son of God

d) Peter - never just “Jesus” – and often was fully “Lord Jesus Christ” and “Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”

4. “suffered for you” (SHOW SLIDE)

a) “suffered”

Hebrews 2:10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings.

Hebrews 5:8-9 Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered. 9 And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation,

b) “for you”

(1) first glance => substitution.

(2) BUT – explained by following phrase: leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps.

(3) MEANS: “for your benefit/personal advantage”

(a) “For your benefit He left you an example to follow – to see how He did it.

(4) In 3:18 Peter emphasizes the “for sins” part by explicitly stating it there instead of the example phrase.

(5) Benefit/adv seen in next phrase of v21...

C. leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps.

1. Literally: “to you leaving behind to write under (an example)”

a) VERY EMPHATIC HERE POINTING TO YOU!

b) Literally, “Christ suffered for you – TO YOU leaving behind to WRITE UNDER”

c) So graphic! “writing under” is how we all learn to write as children

(1) examples are already on the page

(2) we practice by writing under them and copying them!

d) ONLY PLACE in NT this term is used!

e) Peter KNOWS that the followers of Christ will SUFFER for DOING GOOD

(1) He is EMPHATIC in making the TIE to CHRIST as the example for us!

f) We have the PERFECT MODEL / STANDARD to copy!

2. to follow in His steps.

a) Here’s the PURPOSE of Christ’s EXAMPLE – for us to FOLLOW in HIS STEPS

b) = literally steps left in the soil

c) Remember how you’d walk through deep snow

(1) One person led and compacted the snow – step-by-step

(2) You’d follow by placing your feet right into their foot print? = what it means here!

(3) Jesus left us a set of footprints to follow

- d) Hiebert: “As failing human beings, we cannot always place our feet fully in His footprint; though falling short, we can follow His tracks.
3. Spiritually, Peter is telling us that the life of Christ is to be our rule or standard!
4. To follow in His steps is to live in this world as He did and respond to unjust suffering as He did!

D. [22 WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH; 23 and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously;](#)

1. structure:
- v.22-23 tell us exactly what these footsteps look like! – the example to follow!
 - v.22 quotes Isaiah 53:9
 - V.23a is a commentary on the last part of v.22
 - v.23b contrasts v.23a and ties to “committed no sin” at beginning of v.22!
2. [22 WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH;](#)
- “who committed no sin” is not here to emphasize the sinless-ness of Christ but to EMPHASIZE the UNJUSTNESS of the suffering
 - Unprovoked
 - Undeserved
 - Grammar is emphatic: NOT FOR A SINGLE MOMENT DID HE EVER SIN!
3. [NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH;](#)
- “found” is a very strong word indicating the His enemies closely scrutinized His speech and NEVER found any deceit!
 - The Point here: Jesus Christ, our perfect standard for patiently enduring unjust suffering never sinned with the sin of deceit and WE are called...
 - [1 Peter 2:1 Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander,](#)
 - [1 Peter 3:10 For, “THE ONE WHO DESIRES LIFE, TO LOVE AND SEE GOOD DAYS, MUST KEEP HIS TONGUE FROM EVIL AND HIS LIPS FROM SPEAKING DECEIT.](#)
 - “deceit” = smooth, manipulative, deceiving talk
 - “adroit evasions and excuses being a means of self-protection” = fast talker!
 - “good luck talking your way out of this one!”
 - Peter always associates with a general term for sin.
 - Deceit occurs in the company of sin – 2:1/3:10 “general evil” and 2:22 “sin”
4. [23 and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats,](#)
- VERY graphic, moving picture view of the suffering of Jesus
 - Peter portrays His suffering by looking back in time and Telling a story – action like a movie
 - Constant, continual reviling and suffering
 - Met by the FACT of continual refusal to revile and threaten in return.

(4) Meditating on this verse gives you a sense of the long duration of His suffering, and how He CONTINUALLY

(a) Did not revile, threaten

(b) BUT DID PATIENTLY ENDURE.

b) “reviled” – verbal suffering

(1) insult, blasphemy

(2) “harsh railing which rebukes and sharply bites a man, striking him with open contempt”

(3) 1 Cor 5:11, 6:10 list a non-Christian vice

(4) How was Jesus reviled?

(a) Called a Samaritan, glutton, wine-bibber, blasphemer, demon-possessed, traitor, deceiver, ally of Satan...

c) “suffering” – Physical suffering

(1) beaten, scourged, struck in the face

(2) crowned with thorns

(3) carried His own cross

(4) Crucified.

(5) “Uttered no threats”

(6) Notice – NEVER SAID HE WAS SILENT!

(7) Jesus pointed out their sin to convict them

(8) JUST DIDN'T THREATEN.

(9) I would've been reciting the imprecatory Psalms and telling them exactly what the Lake of fire is going to be like!

(10) Gnashing of teeth

(11) Vivid pictures of fire, etc.

(12) God's going to get you stuff!

5. but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously:

a) If one phrase has had the most impact on me from this book – this is it.

(1) This is rubber-hits-the road Christianity

(2) So much this phrase says AND DOES NOT SAY!

b) “BUT” – CONTRAST here!

(1) Peter has described what was done to Jesus

(2) Peter told us what Jesus DIDN'T DO

(3) Everyone who's ever suffered for righteousness sake is looking ahead to see just HOW TO DO THIS SUFFERING RIGHT!

(4) What DID Jesus do in this situation is a valid question!

c) He “kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously”

(1) “kept entrusting” - continually, consistently, handed Himself over

(a) Deliberately, purposefully,

(b) Specifically – time after time

(2) "Himself"

(a) He, PERSONALLY, bore our sin, took our PUNISHMENT

Romans 4:25 He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.Isaiah 53:6 All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.

(b) In the end gave Himself to His Father

Luke 23:46 (quoting Ps 31:5) And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, "Father, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT." Having said this, He breathed His last.

(3) Jesus Set aside JUDGMENT in His first coming

John 3:16-17 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. 17 "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.John 12:47 "If anyone hears My sayings and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world.John 8:15 "You judge according to the flesh; I am not judging anyone.d) Notice: "kept entrusting Himself TO HIM WHO JUDGES RIGHTEOUSLY"

(1) The great equalizer!

(2) There will be a righting of wrong

(3) This was not the time of judging, but there will be a time of judging.

(4) RIGHTEOUS JUDGING!

(5) Paul – Romans 2

Romans 2:5-6 But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,6 who WILL RENDER TO EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS:Romans 2:11 For there is no partiality with God.Colossians 3:25 For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality.1 Peter 4:5 but they will give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.**III. Application****A. 1 Peter Instruction – Can see how our Passage is the FOUNDATION for this book as you look forward.**

1. Let's LOOK FORWARD at application passages of 1 Peter...
2. Take these passages to study, meditation, prayer, and application this week.
3. See what you can observe and pullout to apply – make a personal list to work from...

a) 1 Peter 3:8-12 (1Peter Theme verses for us) To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; 9 not

returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing. 10 For, "THE ONE WHO DESIRES LIFE, TO LOVE AND SEE GOOD DAYS, MUST KEEP HIS TONGUE FROM EVIL AND HIS LIPS FROM SPEAKING DECEIT. 11 "HE MUST TURN AWAY FROM EVIL AND DO GOOD; HE MUST SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT. 12 "FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE TOWARD THE RIGHTEOUS, AND HIS EARS ATTEND TO THEIR PRAYER, BUT THE FACE OF THE LORD IS AGAINST THOSE WHO DO EVIL."

- b) 4:1-5 Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, 2 so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. 3 For the time already past is sufficient *for you* to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties and abominable idolatries. 4 In *all* this, they are surprised that you do not run with *them* into the same excesses of dissipation, and they malign *you*; 5 but they will give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. (tie back to judgment...2:23)
 - c) 4:12-14 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; 13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation. 14 If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.
 - d) 4:16 but if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name.
 - e) 4:19 Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.
 - f) 5:6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, 7 casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.
 - g) 5:9 But resist him, firm in *your* faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. 10 After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen *and* establish you.
4. Romans 12:14-21 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ... 17 Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. 18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. 19 Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord. 20 "BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS ON HIS HEAD." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

B. Jesus Christ, the Suffering Servant is OUR PERFECT STANDARD, Leaving us an example to follow in His footsteps –

1. An example seen in all these other commands of Scripture regarding how we respond to suffering

C. Jesus Christ is OUR PERFECT STANDARD, and next time we'll see that He is ALSO

1. Our Perfect substitute
2. Our Perfect Shepherd