

Suffering Servant: Our Perfect Substitute and Shepherd 1 Peter 2:21-25 (Part 3)

I. Introduction

A. Story of the Tribe with a Theft problem

1. Tribe in the jungles finds itself with theft problem
2. Things disappearing from the huts of its people
3. Chief calls for extreme punishment of the thief when caught – tied to a tree and severely whipped
4. Thief is caught – the Chief's elderly mother.
5. Dilemma –
 - a) Sentence has been proclaimed – has to be carried out
 - b) BUT his elderly mother could never live through such punishment.
6. Day comes for the punishment
 - a) Mother tied to the tree.
 - b) Strong, young tribesman readies the whip
 - c) Chief stops him
 - d) Chief walks up to the tree – takes his shirt off and wraps his big hulking body around his mother and tells the tribesman to proceed
 - e) Took her punishment
7. SUBSTITUTION! JUST for the UNJUST
8. Today we'll see how our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ took our place – our substitute for the death we deserved.

B. Proposition: **FINISH Study Jesus Christ, the Suffering Servant. Seeing Him in the 3 ways that Peter presents Him to us:**

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

II. Our Standard (review)

- 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. God CALLED us at SALVATION for a LIFE of OBEDIENCE (doing right), Suffering unjustly for it, patiently enduring

B. since Christ also suffered for you leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,

1. "For your benefit He left you an example to follow – to see how He did it.

2. “example” =Literally, leaving behind to WRITE UNDER”
 - a) So graphic! “writing under” is how we all learn to write as children
 - b) Peter KNOWS that the followers of Christ will SUFFER for DOING GOOD
 - c) HE is EMPHATIC in making the TIE to CHRIST as the example for us!
 - d) We have the PERFECT MODEL / STANDARD to copy!
 3. 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
 4. Spiritually, the life of Christ is to be our rule or standard!
 5. v.21 SUMMARY:
God CALLED us at SALVATION for a LIFE of OBEDIENCE (doing right), Suffering unjustly for it, patiently enduring – Enduring SEEN in Christ’s PERFECT EXAMPLE that we are to follow when we suffer unjustly.
 6. V. 22-23 DETAILS out this example!
- C. 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; (Quoting Is 53)*
1. 22 WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH;
 - a) “who committed no sin” =EMPHASIZE the UNJUSTNESS of the suffering
 2. NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH;
 - a) “found” is a very strong word indicating the His enemies closely scrutinized His speech and NEVER found any deceit!
 - b) “deceit” = smooth, manipulative, deceiving talk
 - (1) Carefully watched and He never tried to deceitfully talk His way out of it!
 3. 23 and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats.
 - a) VERY graphic, moving picture view of the suffering of Jesus
 - (1) Constant, continual reviling and suffering
 - (2) Met by the FACT of continual refusal to revile and threaten in return.
 - b) “reviled” – verbal suffering
 - (1) insult, blasphemy
 - c) “suffering” – Physical suffering
 - (1) beaten...Crucified.
 - (2) “Uttered no threats”
 - (3) Notice – NEVER SAID HE WAS SILENT!
 - (4) Jesus pointed out their sin to convict them
 - (5) JUST DIDN’T THREATEN.
 4. but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously;
 - a) continually, consistently, handed Himself over

b) "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) 1 Peter 4:5 but they will give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

D. Practical Application

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 5:10 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.

E. TRANSITION: Jesus Christ is OUR PERFECT STANDARD, and He is ALSO**III. Our Perfect substitute**

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.

Isaiah 53:4-5 Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. 5 But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being *fell* upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed.

A. NAS really changes the emphasis of Peter!**B. Literally: OUR SINS, HE HIMSELF, HE BORE****C. PETER: OUR SINS put God on that Cross!****D. Look again at 24 – NAS: and He Himself bore our sins – Literally: 24 WHO, OUR SINS, HE HIMSELF BORE in His body on the cross,**

1. v.22 WHO COMMITTED NO SIN – He didn't do anything to deserve this!
2. OUR SINS – we put Him on that cross –
 - a) Don't get all arms-length about His Suffering – YOU PUT HIM THERE TOO!
 - b) OUR SINS gets the MAJOR EMPHASIS to tie it back to all the suffering described in v.21-24!
 - c) See that personal touch – "OUR"?
 - (1) First time Peter has been personally involving himself with his readers

(2) Peter is confessing that he, TOO, put Christ on the cross with his sins!

d) Peter is doing two things here!

(1) ALL that PERSONAL EXAMPLE above is of NO USE to someone who is not saved

(a) UNLESS you come to saving knowledge of Christ!

(2) SETTING us UP for the RESPONSIVE we OWE TO CHRIST for what HE DID!

e) What did He do? HE WAS OUR PERFECT SUBSTITUTE...

3. “He, HIMSELF Bore”

a) Peter uses an emphatic form of “himself”

(1) He and He ALONE Bore our sins!

b) Hiebert: “there being none other but Himself who could have done it!”

c) “bore”

(1) literally: “to carry up” = a ritual, sacrificial term.

(2) There are multiple things the word could emphasize

(a) Offering as a Priest offers

(b) Bearing as the sacrifice bears – taking the consequences of our sins

(c) Bearing in our place – our substitute

(3) Christ was the sin-offering, the sin-bearer ON OUR BEHALF – FOR US!

(4) = “sacrificed as our substitute” – Christ SACRIFICED on the cross

(5) EMPHASIS – OUR SUBSTITUTE!

(6) Also DESCRIBES THE ACT as A SINGLE, NOT-REPEATED act.

d) “in His body”

(1) points out that the sacrifice was accomplished through His body

(2) Not trying to limit the sacrifice to just His body.

(3) Ties back to “He, Himself” = tremendous emphasis on Christ’s personal sacrifice – “He, Himself, in His body – bore”

e) “on the cross”

(1) Not the usual phrase for the cross

(2) This phrase emphasizes the destination of the cross

(3) = Jesus Christ carried our sins TO or UPON the CROSS

(4) why?

(a) Emphasis is on the REMOVAL of SIN ACCOMPLISHED by Christ ON THE CROSS

(b) NOT on the SHAME or the CURSE of being put on a CROSS

(5) Meaning – He CARRIED OUR SINS AWAY!

(6) Sum this all up as: “He, Himself, carried our sins away, as our substitute, UPON THE CROSS”

- f) What was the purpose of the substitution? Of the suffering for our sins?
4. [so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness](#)
- a) We don't just RENOUNCE SIN, ACCEPT Christ as our SUBSTITUTE –
 - b) THAT'S NOT the END
 - (1) RATHER – FIRST STEP to DYING to SIN and LIVING to RIGHTEOUSNESS
 - (2) PUT OFF / PUT ON
 - (3) Peter is NOT talking about anything more than PRESENT WORLD LIVING here!
 - c) [so that](#)=PURPOSE of Christ's SUFFERING and SUBSTITUTION
 - d) [we might die](#)
 - (1) Peter's metaphor – dying and living
 - (2) NAS WRONG – no "MIGHT" here at all – that's on the next verb! THEY HAVE IT BACKWARDS
 - (a) NKJ gets it right.
 - (b) MOVE THE MIGHT over to in front of LIVE!
 - (c) Since it is used as a purpose = SHOULD, not MIGHT
 - (3) RIGHT: so that we, HAVING DIED to sin, SHOULD LIVE to righteousness...
 - e) [to sin](#)
 - (1) Actually: "to those sins"
 - (2) Referring back to the sins Christ bore on the cross as our substitute.
 - f) [\[SHOULD\] live](#)
 - (1) The "might" indicates purpose
 - (2) = SHOULD
 - (3) Practical effect of redemption from sins is to have a purpose in living righteously
 - (4) Peter includes himself again – WE SHOULD LIVE
 - g) [to righteousness](#)
 - (1) Actually placed emphatically in front of "should" live
 - (2) = ["to the righteousness we should live"](#)
 - (3) Emphasizing RIGHTEOUSNESS – DOING RIGHT of V.20
 - (4) Peter ALWAYS gets back to the thrust of OUR RESPONSE TO GOD for the GREAT SALVATION He has provided us!
 - (a) We are to LIVE RIGHT! DO RIGHT!
5. [for by His wounds you were healed.](#)
- a) Peter now returns to quoting Is 53 (v.5)
 - b) This is the BECAUSE / EXPLANATION
 - (1) WHAT: He, Himself, bore our sins on the cross
 - (2) WHY?: so that we, having died to sin, should live to righteous

(3) BECAUSE by His wounds saved (“healed”) - because it is now possible for you to live right from WHAT He did.

c) “by His wounds”= focuses on physical wounds

(1) Bruise or bloody welt from a sharp blow to the flesh

(2) Collective word referring to all His wounds

(3) Possibly to remind these readers suffering similar treatment that their LORD ENDURED THE SAME!

d) “you were healed”

(1) physical healing used as a metaphor for salvation / conversion

(2) Peter’s going to explain this more in v.25 with a Shepherding metaphor!

E. Sum this all up as: “He, Himself, carried our sins away, as our SUBSTITUTE, UPON THE CROSS” – SO THAT, having died to sin, WE SHOULD LIVE to RIGHTEOUS, because by His death, you were saved, and it is now possible for you to live right!

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

1. OUR PERFECT STANDARD

2. Our PERFECT SUBSTITUTE

3. AND...JESUS CHRIST IS OUR...

IV. Our Perfect Shepherd

25 For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

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.

A. Peter is now going to describe what Isaiah meant by healing in v.24

1. Healed in v.24 = returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of you souls.

B. For you were continually straying like sheep,

1. = unsaved condition in the past

2. This is NOT A NICE COMPARISON!

a) Sheep are

(1) notoriously DULL!,

(2) Prone to stray

(3) Helpless to find their way back

b) Metaphor = “wretched picture of the needy state of the lost!”

3. “continually straying” = wandering away

4. Again – YOU WERE PREVIOUSLY UNSAVED STRAYING SHEEP.

C. BUT now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

1. Suddenly the whole picture of v.21-25 changes dramatically!
 - a) From suffering, substitution, wounded, carrying sins to the cross, straying sheep
 - b) To BUT NOW - sheep are back together with the Shepherd and Guardian of their souls – with CHRIST!
 - c) Christ – the SHEPHERD who has made it possible to be back together again.
2. Peter moves BEYOND Is 53 –
 - a) ANNOUNCES an END TO THE STRAYING
 - b) Introduces the “SHEPHERD”
3. now you have returned
 - a) Does not mean ONCE were WALKING, SEPARATED and NOW RETURNED.
 - b) Means – YOUR LIFE WAS ALWAYS COMPLETELY MOVING AWAY FROM CHRIST
 - (1) NOW you’ve TURNED AROUND COMPLETELY TOWARDS HIM.
 - (2) You didn’t have a Shepherd before, now you have one.
 - c) So – verb is actually TURN AROUND, TURN ABOUT.
4. to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.
 - a) Grammar says – ONE person is the Shepherd and Guardian of your soul.
 - b) Shepherd
 - (1) OT God as the Shepherd – Psalm 23, Is 40:11; Exe 34:11-16
 - (a) Psalm 23:1 1 The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.
 - (b) Ezekiel 34:11-16
 - 11 For thus says the Lord GOD, “Behold, I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out.
 - 12 “As a shepherd cares for his herd in the day when he is among his scattered sheep, so I will care for My sheep and will deliver them from all the places to which they were scattered on a cloudy and gloomy day.
 - 13 “I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them to their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the streams, and in all the inhabited places of the land.
 - 14 “I will feed them in a good pasture, and their grazing ground will be on the mountain heights of Israel. There they will lie down on good grazing ground and feed in rich pasture on the mountains of Israel.
 - 15 “I will feed My flock and I will lead them to rest,” declares the Lord GOD.
 - 16 “I will seek the lost, bring back the scattered, bind up the broken and strengthen the sick; but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with judgment.

(2) NT: Matt 10:16; 15:24; 18:12-14; Mark 6:34; Luke 15:3-7; John 10

John 10 1 “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbs up some other way, he is a thief and a robber.

2 “But he who enters by the door is a shepherd of the sheep.

3 “To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

4 “When he puts forth all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice...

7 So Jesus said to them again, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep...

9 “I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

10 “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have *it* abundantly.

11 “I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep...[1Peter 5 – GREAT SHEPHERD]

14 “I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me,

...16 “I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock *with* one shepherd.

...27 “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me;

c) Guardian

(1) Episkopov (we derive Episcopal)

(2) Root =to look at, to care for, to oversee

(3) Noun here = OVERSEER

(4) STRESSES ACTIVE and RESPONSIBLE CARE

(5) Later in Epistle (4:7-11; 5:1-4) PETER will DISCUSS the ministry of earthly shepherds and overseers – ELDERS in the Church

(a) BUT Here He first establishes SUPREMACY and PRIORITY of CHRIST as the ULTIMATE SHEPHERD and OVERSEER!

(b) Elders are but Under-Shepherds and Under-Overseers

(6) Emphasis here is on the ROLE in a DESCRIPTIVE SENSE – NOT on the TITLE

(a) He is a SHEPHERD AND GUARDIAN to YOU

d) Of your souls

(1) = You as seen through your Spiritual life.

D. Summary - Jesus Christ is our Perfect Shepherd

1. Work on the Cross brought us together with the Great Shepherd
2. the “healing” of v.24 - salvation – is seen in the Shepherd metaphor
 - a) Straying Sheep – going away from Christ
 - b) Turned around
 - c) Now under the care of the Shepherd and Guardian, Jesus Christ.

V. Conclusion –

A. *what a passage* - The centerpiece of 1 Peter

B. To Christians everywhere who are suffering UNJUSTLY FOR DOING RIGHT,

1. We have a PERFECT MODEL to FOLLOW
2. BECAUSE He was
 - a) FIRST our SUBSTITUTE
 - b) NOW – our GREAT SHEPHERD and GUARDIAN
3. See why Paul called Him – THE ALL and IN ALL CHRIST!

**C. *STUDYING SCRIPTURE DOESN'T GET ANY BETTER THAN THIS!* –
*STUDYING Jesus CHRIST!***