

PREPARED TO LIVE IN VICTORIA: JESUS SUFFERED SO YOU STOP SINNING

Houses of Light Church • July 2 y 3, 2022 • Pastor Netz Gómez

1 Pet. 2:21-25

'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.'

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. **"For to this you have been called"** Peter has just told the servants who were called to this unjust suffering. And he is telling them that not only Christian servants were called to this but all Christians. This was the same thing he said earlier v.20 ***"...But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God"***
- B. **How could the call to suffering be a motivation for these slaves and for us? The answer is that it is a beautiful thing before God because we demonstrate our trust in Him and also He will give us a great reward (Matt. 5:11-12).** An athlete suffers a lot because he expects a great reward and knows that all the suffering of training will be worth it to win a competition. **Following Christ costs everything but the glorious reward that he will grant us has no comparison.**
Rom. 8:18 "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us."
- C. May God show us the eternal dimension of everything that surrounds us, our families, children, suffering, etc.

II. HOW DOES THIS CALL HAPPEN?

- A. According to this passage, and many more (Acts 14:22), we are called to suffer unjustly for two things, both stemming from the fact that Christ suffered. **First of all He suffered for us and He also suffered to leave us an example so that we can follow in his footsteps.** Jesus suffered the suffering that corresponded to us and also to illustrate how we should live.
Matt. 16:24 "Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."
- B. In this world that openly opposes God and his Word (Ps. 2:1-3) we can expect this suffering to be almost unavoidable at various levels, within the family, work, society itself and even the church.

Jn. 15:18-19 "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you."

- C. **"He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth."** Jesus left us an example by being crucified without having committed any sin. We should not suffer for sinning and bearing the consequences of evil, because that would be just not unjust suffering. The point is: **Do not cause yourself suffering for having sinned; our call goes further. Jesus did not suffer for having sinned or lied. Do not let the cause of your suffering be sin or deception nor the result of your suffering be sin or deception.**
- D. **"When he [Jesus] was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten"**. He didn't tell them: 'fools, if you only knew who I am.' Nor did He tell them: "it's going to be your turn," on the contrary, He prayed for them when he was on the cross.

Lk. 23:34a "And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do..."

III. HOW DO WE GAIN THE POWER TO RESPOND WELL WHEN WE FEEL UNFAIRLY TREATED?

- A. Right here we are given the answer: **"but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly"** The strength of Jesus when hanging on the cross, surrounded by a sea of injustices that threatened Him was enormous. He could have come down from the Cross and killed them all and He would have done what is right, we would have perished and gone to hell because He had not died for our sins but He stayed on the cross because He was helped to know that justice was going to be done.

Rom. 12:19-20 "Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it[i] to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." 20 To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.»

- B. So the strength to feed your enemy while he gets away with it, to the point where you want to get back at him but you let him go because of what Paul said here, and what Jesus did: **"but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly"** Jesus continued to entrust it to the Father who judges justly.
- C. **The key to overcoming our resistance to return good for evil, is what this text tells us that justice will always be done, you don't have to do it yourself, God will do it;** you can return good for evil, besides Christ died for them and bore the sin they committed against you.
- D. **"He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness"** Jesus did not commit any sin, he bore our sin; then having replaced us on that cross means that He carried the guilt and

condemnation in his body **and the purpose of that is so that we can die to sin and live to the justice of God.**

- E. If Jesus had not borne our sins there would be no way to follow His example so it is tragic to see that some people claim to follow Jesus as an example but have rejected him as atonement by dying for them. They do not like the conversation that He suffers in his place bearing his sins, it sounds very strange to them but we must know that Peter is citing the prophecy of Isaiah, which speaks of what Jesus was achieving with his sacrifice.

Isa. 53:5-6 "But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all."

- F. Jesus bridged the gap between God and us by putting himself in our place **"the righteous for the unrighteous."** He did this suffering to save us and leave us an example for us to follow..

IV. BY HIS WOUNDS WE WERE HEALED

- A. **1 Pet. 2:25 "For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls"** All of this that Isaiah predicted is what Peter is quoting to explain how Jesus bore our sins, and how His wounds healed us. It does include physical health but also that of our deviated heart. We were like lost sheep and the healing for this disease of being lost sheep is that it has already returned us to the Shepherd and Guardian of our souls.
- B. **Healing speaks of the restoration of our fellowship with God and with Christ.** When Jesus took our sins he healed us and that healing consists of taking people who are lost who did not have God as God, we were wandering, out of fellowship with God and **restored us to the sweet experience with the Shepherd and Caretaker of our souls.**
- C. **So now we have a new relationship with God; a new satisfaction in Him, a new delight of peace and communion with Him and that healing breaks the attractive power of sin and makes us fall in love with the justice that God carried out for us when He committed no sin and there was no guile in His mouth.**

Jn. 4:14 "but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

Hech. 3:19 "Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, 20 that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord"

V. CONCLUSION

- A. **The work of Christ on the cross dying for us is a great victory, an example and also a call.** He taught us how to respond when we are treated unfairly

by trusting or entrusting everything completely to the Father who we are sure will do justice. Furthermore, Jesus healed our lost soul and brought us back into relationship with the Father.

- B. We must embrace both his work and his example, not just one of the two so as not to fall into a religious position without action or a life that sees Jesus as a good example but does not recognize him as the only atonement for their sins.

VI. CELEBRATING THE LAST SUPPER

1 Cor. 10:16-17 *"The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? 17 Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread."*

1 Cor. 11:28-29 *"Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself."*

VII. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Why can we consider that one of the calls of the Christian is the call to suffering?
2. According to this teaching, how did Jesus teach us to obtain the power to respond well when we feel that we are being treated unfairly?
3. Aside from physical healing, what did Jesus heal us from through his work on the Cross?

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Corporate Prayer this Thursday, July 7 at 7:00 p.m. The whole family is welcome to this time of encounter with God as a community.
- Affirming Your Steps (AYS) in English will be teaching an intensive course during the summer, from July 11 to August 15. Our goal is to finish before the school year begins! Please register at www.housesoflight.org
- Vacation Bible School for children ages 4-12 will be held July 18-22. Please register your children at the children's ministry office in the front building. Limited availability.