

Pastor Jason Huffman

7/13/2025

Sermon Recap

Are you living as if this world is your permanent home? In his thought-provoking message, Pastor Jason dives deep into the themes presented in 1 Peter, urging believers to recognize their identities as sojourners and pilgrims in a foreign land. With identity directing our actions, Pastor Jason emphasizes the importance of living honorably and pursuing good works that reflect the character of Christ, rather than succumbing to the fleshly desires that distract us from our true purpose.

Discussion Questions

What does it mean to be a sojourner or pilgrim in today's world, and how can understanding this identity affect our daily actions?

- Pastor Jason discussed how believers are described as sojourners and pilgrims, emphasizing that our true home is in heaven rather than this world.
- In what specific ways can you remind yourself that you are a sojourner in your everyday life?

How can we differentiate between healthy desires and fleshly, selfish lusts as mentioned in the sermon?

- The sermon explained that fleshly lusts are desires not submitted to God and shared examples of both good and bad desires.
- Can you think of a desire you have that might need to be refocused according to God's design? How can you submit that desire to God?

In 1 Peter 2:12, we are called to live honorably among others. What are some examples of good works we can pursue in our communities?

- Pastor Jason emphasized the importance of pursuing good works and living honorably to represent Christ well in front of those around us.
- What are specific good works you do or have seen done that reflects faith to others?

Why is submission to governing authorities important for Christians, even if we do not always agree with those in charge?

- The sermon highlighted that even though believers are citizens of heaven, they are still called to submit to the laws of their land as part of their good conduct.
- Can you think of a situation where you can show trust in God and respect to an authority figure, even when you disagree with them? How might that affect your witness as a believer?

How can we practice honoring all people and especially our leaders, as instructed in the sermon?

- Pastor Jason mentioned that honoring everyone reflects their value as creations of God, even if we disagree with their views or actions.
- What are practical ways we can honor someone in a position of authority in your life, such as a teacher, coach, or family member?

Prayer Prompts

- Pray for wisdom to discern and resist fleshly desires this week.
- Ask God to help you live out your identity as a sojourner, reflecting His truth and love.
- Pray for opportunities to demonstrate good works that honor God and draw others to Him.

Teaching Notes:

Message Title: A Sojourner's Submission

Big Idea: Don't live like you are at home if you are not.

First Peter 2: **11** Beloved, I beg *you* as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, **12** having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by *your* good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.

"Sojourners & pilgrims" is their identity & their goal is not to homogenize but to evangelize.

In the Bible the flesh/self is what is NOT submitted to God.

James 1:14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. 15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

1. Pursue good works not selfish lusts.

Desires aren't bad, but out of God's order they become damaging, even deadly & definitely distracting for those looking for Christ in us.

13 Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, **14** or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and *for the* praise of those who do good.

We pay our taxes & obey the speed limits & are law abiding citizens even though we are citizens of heaven BECAUSE we don't live for OURSELVES.

Acts 5:29 "We ought to obey God rather than men.

15 For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men— **16** as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God.

2. Actions speak louder.

Talk is cheap, but people know actions come w/ a cost.

A bondservant served by choice.

As an American I have the right to do what I want but as a Christian I choose to serve others.

Sojourner: one who lives in a place w/o the right of citizenship

Pilgrim: one who comes from a foreign country into a city or land to reside there by the side of the natives

17 Honor all *people*. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.

3. Treat people right.

To honor is to ascribe value or worth to.

All people are created in the image of God & should be honored.

All people in positions should be honored for their position.

I don't fear that God is malicious, unjust, or unpredictable.

I fear God because He is holy, perfect, and I will stand before Him.

5 Day Devotional

This five-day devotional will be taking a deeper dive into the sermon from this weekend. It will explore the themes of identity, submission, and the call to live as sojourners in a world that often conflicts with our faith. Each day will provide scripture and reflections to help you align your desires with God's purpose.

Day 1

1 Peter 2:11-12

As we reflect on our identity as sojourners and pilgrims, it's essential to remember that our actions are often driven by who we believe we are. Peter reminds us that our conduct should reflect our identity in Christ. The call to abstain from fleshly lusts that wage war against our souls is a powerful reminder that our desires must be aligned with God's will to truly thrive in our spiritual journey. When faced with conflicting desires, we have a choice to make. Will we succumb to the selfish tendencies of our nature, or will we submit those desires to God? Reflecting on these questions is vital as we pursue good works that glorify Him rather than ourselves. Embrace the challenge of making decisions that honor God and reflect your identity in Him.

- What areas of your life do you struggle to submit to God?
- How do your actions reflect your identity as a sojourner?
- In what ways can you pursue good works this week?
- Ask God for help in identifying and resisting selfish desires.
- Pray for strength to live out your identity in Christ.
- Seek God's guidance in pursuing good works that glorify Him.

Day 2

James 1:14-15

Desires are not inherently bad; rather, it is when they are not submitted to God that they can lead us astray. This day, we explore how temptation draws us away from God's purpose for our lives. It is crucial to recognize that desires have the potential to lead us either toward sin or toward a deeper relationship with God, depending on whether we choose to submit it to Him.

By understanding the origin of our desires, we can better manage them. When we acknowledge the conflict within ourselves, we are better equipped to resist temptations that threaten our walk with Christ. Remember, abstaining from desires isn't about deprivation but rather about redirecting that energy toward fulfilling God's purpose in our lives.

- What desires do you need to submit to God today?
- How have your desires led you closer or further away from God?
- How can you transform your desires into good works?
- Reflect on the desires that distract you from following God.

- Pray for wisdom in distinguishing between godly desires and selfish ones.
- Ask for guidance on how to take actionable steps in pursuing good works.

Day 3

1 Peter 2:13-14

This devotional invites us to consider our submission not just to God but to the authorities placed over us. Living as citizens of Heaven does not exempt us from participating in society. Instead, it calls us to set an example of what it means to be both a follower of Christ and a responsible citizen of our nation. Scripture urges us to respect authority and contribute positively to our communities. However, submission does not mean blind obedience. There are times when we must prioritize our allegiance to God above all else, especially if the laws of the land conflict with His teachings. Striking a balance between submission and obedience to God is paramount as we navigate our roles in society as sojourners with a heavenly citizenship.

- In what ways do you find it challenging to submit to authority?
- How can you engage with your community as a representation of God's kingdom?
- What are some ways you can serve while remaining true to your faith?
- Pray for a heart that submits to authority while prioritizing God's truth.
- Seek God's wisdom on how to engage with governmental issues.
- Ask God to help you demonstrate good works that honor Him in your community.

Day 4

1 Peter 2:15-16

Today, we delve into the idea that our actions speak louder than words. As Christians, we are called to live out our faith in tangible ways. The challenge lies in ensuring our actions align with the message we proclaim. The world is watching, and our conduct can either draw people to God or push them away.

Understanding that our freedoms in Christ are not for our self-indulgence but for serving others is crucial. It's about leveraging our liberty to honor God and love those around us. Be mindful that the way we exercise our freedoms can reflect our commitment to God's call on our lives, encouraging others to seek Him and His kingdom.

- How are your actions reflecting your faith in Christ?
- What practical steps can you take to demonstrate your faith in your community?
- In what areas do you struggle to align your actions with your beliefs?
- Pray for awareness of how your actions impact others.
- Seek God for guidance on how to best use your freedoms to serve Him and others.
- Ask for strength to live authentically as a follower of Christ.

Day 5

1 Peter 2:17

As we conclude this devotional, we are reminded of the core values we must hold dear: honor, love, and fear of God. All people are made in the image of God and therefore deserve respect and honor, including those we disagree with. Our relationships should be guided by God's love, especially within the church community where we are called to love one another genuinely. Fearing God means living with an awareness of His holiness and understanding that our actions have eternal consequences. As sojourners, our focus should be on living in a way that honors God, fostering a desire in others to seek a relationship with Him. As we honor others and fear God, we will be lights in a world that needs His love and truth.

- How do you honor those in your life through your actions?
- What is your understanding of fearing God in everyday life?
- How can you cultivate a community of love amongst believers?
- Pray for the ability to honor others, even those in authority.

- Seek God's help in building genuine relationships within your community.
- Reflect on how to live out your faith in a way that brings glory to God.