

Pastor Jason Huffman
7/20/2025

Teaching Notes:

Title: A Servant's Submission

Big Idea: We submit because Christ submitted first.

God's heart was for His creation to return to Him, so He sent Jesus, His Son, on a rescue mission as a servant. And God has a plan & a purpose for our lives as His servants as well.

18 Servants, *be* submissive to *your* masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh.

This word for servant is used just 4 times in the NT.

It is someone who works domestically in a house.

"one who lives in the same house as another, spoken of all who are under the authority of one and the same householder."

The fear here is not of the master, but of God.

1. Align with God's mission at work.

Work is not a curse; it is a benefit & a blessing.

Work is not our identity, but it is our opportunity.

We can glorify God at work as much as at home or church by rightly represent Him.

Most of work comes down to people and God is all about people.

19 For this *is* commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. **20** For what credit *is it* if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this *is* commendable before God.

2. Suffer patiently for Christ.

Submit to God & to them even when they don't deserve it because you serve a higher authority.

Don't be a victim, be a servant.

21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:

The word for "example" is *hoopogrammos*' "a writing copy, w/all the letters of the alphabet, to aid beginners in learning to write.

3. Christ is our template

We want people to see Jesus so we trace our lives over His.

Our ability to endure in suffering & pain makes a statement.

22 “Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth”; **23** who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed *Himself* to Him who judges righteously.

Isaiah 53 is the suffering servant passage.

When we go thru suffering, we can look beyond our suffering.

24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.

25 For you were like sheep going astray but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Before Christ, we were lost on our own.

But now we have a good Shepherd.

Sermon Recap

Are you ready to embrace a life of purpose and power through submission? In his compelling sermon, Pastor Jason delves into the essence of submission as detailed in First Peter, illuminating how our willingness to align with God’s mission transforms our everyday lives even at work and school. This message not only invites us to embrace submission as a mark of strength but also encourages us to see our struggles as opportunities for growth and testimony.

Discussion Questions

Why do you think it is important for Christians to submit to God's mission, even in difficult situations?

- The sermon discusses how submission is part of aligning with God's mission and highlights that difficult times communicate in a unique and powerful way.
- Have you seen anyone go through difficulty in a way that impacted your life?

What does it mean to suffer patiently for Christ, and how can this be applied in our daily lives?

- Pastor Jason talks about enduring grief and suffering while doing good works as a form of submission to God.
- Have you ever been tempted to walk away from your faith or stop good works because of suffering?

How can we ensure our work represents God well?

- The message explained that our work should reflect qualities like honesty, faithfulness, and a commitment to valuing people because that is how God is.
- In what ways can you improve how you represent God in your schoolwork or job?

According to 1 Peter 2:21, how does Christ serve as our example in submission and suffering?

- The message emphasizes that Jesus suffered but looked to the future plans of God.
- How can we follow Christ's example when we feel mistreated?

What can we do to more align ourselves with God's mission to reunite people with God?

- Aligning with God's mission impacts how we interact with everyone around us.
- How can you see and treat someone differently this week to better align with God's mission to bring them to Himself, especially if they are difficult?

Prayer Prompts

- Pray for the courage to submit to God's will in our lives and work.
 - Ask God to help us endure suffering with patience and grace.
 - Pray for opportunities to represent Christ in our workplaces and relationships.
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5 Day Devotional

This five day devotional will be taking a deeper dive into the sermon from this weekend. We will explore the themes of submission to God and one another, drawing on the teachings as outlined in the letter of First Peter.

Day 1

1 Peter 2:18

In this passage, Pastor Jason emphasizes the importance of our submission to God. It is a reflection of our trust in Him and a recognition of His sovereignty. When we submit, we align ourselves with God's mission, allowing His glory to shine through our actions. Submission is often misunderstood in our culture, equated with weakness, but in reality, it is a profound act of faith and strength.

As we navigate our daily roles—whether at work, home, or in community—it's vital to remember that our submission ultimately should glorify God. Each action rooted in this perspective can draw others closer to Christ. The call to submit isn't just about following rules; it's about embodying the love and power in following Jesus.

- How can I practice submission in my daily interactions?
- What does it mean to submit to God in my current circumstances?
- In what areas have I resisted submission and how can I address it?
- Pray for guidance and strength to submit to God's will.
- Reflect on the areas in your life where you can demonstrate Christ-like submission.

Day 2

1 Peter 2:19-20

Today, we dive into the concept of suffering for doing good. We were reminded that enduring hardships patiently reflects our commitment to God. When we face adversity because of our faith and actions, we are not alone. Jesus endured suffering for our sake, providing a template for us to follow. It's vital to understand that our struggles have a purpose and can lead to deeper intimacy with God and a greater testimony to those around us.

- What situations have tested my patience and faith recently?
- How can I respond to adversity in a way that honors God?
- What does it mean to be a witness for Christ in difficult circumstances?
- Pray for the strength to endure suffering and remain faithful.
- Seek God's wisdom in how to respond to challenges at work or in life.

Day 3

1 Peter 2:21

Today, we reflect on Christ as our ultimate example of submission and sacrifice. Peter sets forth how Jesus modeled what it means to trust God's plan even amidst suffering. In following His footsteps, we learn that submission often leads us down difficult paths but also to profound rewards. Our calling is to embrace this template to live out His mission.

As we follow Jesus, our lives become a testament to others, showing that hope exists beyond our present suffering. While we may not always understand the reasons for our trials, we know that they are part of a greater narrative of redemption. By tracing the footsteps of Christ, we invite others to see His light within us, paving the way for their own journeys toward faith.

- How can I embody the example of Christ in my own life?
- In what ways might God be calling me to endure for His sake?
- How can my experiences of suffering help others find hope?
- Pray for clarity in your path and grace to follow Jesus' example.
- Consider ways to share your testimony of faith amidst suffering with others.

Day 4

1 Peter 2:24

In today's devotional, we focus on the healing that comes from Christ's work on the cross. His sacrifice addressed the ultimate consequence of sin and offers us a path to righteousness. By bearing our sins, Jesus transformed our brokenness into a testament of His healing power. It's a powerful reminder of the depth of God's love for us and the intimate relationship He desires with each of His children.

Our lives can become vessels for His healing grace, enabling us to reach out to others in compassionate service. As we experience this healing, we are encouraged to extend it to those around us, representing Christ's love in our actions.

- What areas of my life feel broken and in need of healing?
- How can I share the healing I've experienced in Christ with others?
- In what ways can I serve those who are hurting around me?
- Pray for those areas needing healing and restoration.
- Ask God for opportunities to minister to those in pain.

Day 5

1 Peter 2:25

As we conclude our devotional journey, we reflect on the idea of returning to the Good Shepherd. Peter encourages us to remember that we were once lost, wandering without purpose. But through Christ, we have found our way home. His loving care invites us back, reminding us that we are always under His watchful eye. It is a beautiful reminder of His grace and faithfulness in our lives. Embracing this truth forms the foundation of our identity as God's people. We are called to share this message with others, inviting them to experience the same shepherding love that we have

found. As we go about our daily lives, may we remain aware of His presence and follow His lead, so others too can return to the Shepherd of their souls.

- How does being cared for by the Good Shepherd impact my daily life?
- Who can I invite to share in the experience of God's love?
- What steps can I take to cultivate a closer relationship with Christ?
- Pray for those who are still lost, that they might find their way to Christ.
- Reflect on your personal relationship with Jesus and seek to grow in it.