



Suffering Inside and Out | Rev Tim Frickenschmidt | February 16, 2020

Old Testament Reading [Isa 53:3, 7, 10-11](#)

53³ He was despised and rejected by men,
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed Him not.
7 He was oppressed, and He was afflicted,
yet He opened not His mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is
silent,
so He opened not His mouth.
10 Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush Him;
He has put Him to grief;
when His soul makes an offering for guilt,
He shall see His offspring; He shall prolong
His days;
the will of the LORD shall prosper in His hand.
11 Out of the anguish of His soul He shall see
and be satisfied;
by His knowledge shall the Righteous One, My
Servant,
make many to be accounted righteous,
and He shall bear their iniquities.

Epistle Reading [1 Peter 3:8-18](#)

3⁸ Finally, all of you, have unity of mind,
sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a
humble mind. 9 Do not repay evil for evil or
reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless,
for to this you were called, that you may obtain
a blessing. 10 For
"Whoever desires to love life
and see good days,
let him keep his tongue from evil
and his lips from speaking deceit;
11 let him turn away from evil and do good;
let him seek peace and pursue it.
12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,
and His ears are open to their prayer.
But the face of the Lord is against those who do
evil."
13 Now who is there to harm you if you are
zealous for what is good? 14 But even if you
should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will
be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be
troubled, 15 but in your hearts honor Christ the
Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a
defense to anyone who asks you for a reason
for the hope that is in you; yet do it with
gentleness and respect, 16 having a good
conscience, so that, when you are slandered,
those who revile your good behavior in Christ
may be put to shame. 17 For it is better to suffer
for doing good, if that should be God's will, than
for doing evil.

18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the
righteous for the unrighteous, that He might
bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh
but made alive in the spirit.

Gospel Reading [Matt 26:69-75](#)

26⁶⁹ Now Peter was sitting outside in the
courtyard. And a servant girl came up to him
and said, "You also were with Jesus the
Galilean." 70 But he denied it before them all,
saying, "I do not know what you mean." 71 And
when he went out to the entrance, another
servant girl saw him, and she said to the
bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of
Nazareth." 72 And again he denied it with an
oath: "I do not know the man." 73 After a little
while the bystanders came up and said to
Peter, "Certainly you too are one of them, for
your accent betrays you." 74 Then he began to
invoke a curse on himself and to swear, "I do
not know the man." And immediately the
rooster crowed. 75 And Peter remembered the
saying of Jesus, "Before the rooster crows, you
will deny Me three times." And he went out and
wept bitterly.

Introduction

•1 Peter tells us there are three times we should submit: (1) citizens to government, (2) servants to masters, (3) wives to husbands. As Christians we should be subject to those we follow, because we follow Jesus. But, what should we do if we suffer under those to whom we submit? What do we need to suffer well as Christians? Three things to answer this question: (1) Final Foundation, (2) Internal Emphasis and (3) Outward Call.

Background

- Final Foundation (a final summary of what life in the church is supposed to be like)
 - Vv8-12 refer to suffering in the church at the hands of Christians; vv13-18 refer to suffering in the world at the hands of non-Christians (Suffering Inside and Out).
 - 1 Peter encourages us to be more concerned about "suffering inside" than outside (in the church, marriages, parenting, friendships). To avoid "inside suffering" we and our Christian partners must embrace these five words from 1 Peter 3:8, which make up the Final Foundation of our Christian lives.
 - Unity of mind (amongst ourselves, church, marriage, friendships): Our lives in the church, in our marriages, etc., begin with our "like-thinking" about God.
 - Sympathy (having the same pathos/passion for or love of God): A shared passion for God can enable us to love again those who have failed us.
 - Brotherly love and 4) tender heartedness are words about loving other Christians, especially when they have wronged us.
 - Humble Mindedness: [C. S. Lewis](#): "Humility isn't thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less."
- Internal Emphasis (how to suffer if the five words are not known by our contacts)
 - Begin with silence. v9 don't act vindictively; don't revile our revilers. Repaying evil for evil or reviling for reviling is not the way of Jesus.
 - Speak to God, He will defend us (v12).
- Outward Call (how to suffer in the world at the hands of non-Christians)
 - 1 Peter wants to make sure we are not merely acting badly, then saying we are being mistreated because we are Christians. If we do right in the eyes of authorities, usually we will avoid suffering.
 - 1 Peter tells us not to hide from our persecutors but to have no fear of them (v14). Which is somewhat shocking for Peter to say because Peter denied Jesus three times, twice to lowly servant girls (Matt 26:69-75)
 - We must have no fear of suffering slander in acknowledging our faith in Jesus, but we also must be prepared to make a defense of our faith, with gentleness and respect, even if by just saying "Yes, we believe." (v15-16).
 - Peter's outward call is telling us to be ready to speak about being committed to following Christ, regardless if following Him might bring us suffering, AND to do it with gentleness and respect: to turn toward the persecuting world (because of v18).

Discuss

- What do we need to suffer well as Christians? Of the three, is one most important?
- What are some examples of how we might suffer at the hands of Christians (e.g., in the church, in marriages, in parenting, in friendships)?
- Does suffering happen in the church, because of the church?
- Are there ways to avoid such suffering? Or must we endure the suffering for Christ to bring others to God with us? (re: 2nd bullet, Conclusion/Application)
- When we suffer, what must we remember? (re: 2nd&3rd bullet, Conclusion/Application)

Conclusion/Application

•There are times we don't have to say what is true about ourselves; we don't need to worry that what we say is our only defense. Because if we belong to Christ, He will come to our defense and He will have the last word about us against all of our revilers.
 •We who believe in Christ will suffer in this world. Part of the reason we suffer in this world for our faith is that through our suffering Christ might bring others to God with us.
 •[Armando Valladares](#): "I am here to tell you that every little act counts. No man or woman is too small or simple to be called to bear witness to the truth. I'm here to tell you that each of you is called to stay true, to stay true to who you are." 1 Peter tells us as exiles in a darkened world which needs the light of Christ which we bear, we must stay true to who we are. When we suffer, remember what we believe about God and the Gospel.

