

SOJOURNERS AND STRANGERS

1 PETER 4:12-19 | SUFFERING SUCCESSFULLY

In 1991, the most popular commercial of the year was for Gatorade that featured Michael Jordan. The commercial spoke about dreaming to be “like Mike.” Little kids were alongside the best basketball player ever wishing to be like him – all while drinking Gatorade. The commercial was clear – if you want to be “like Mike,” then you needed to drink Gatorade.

As Christians, our aim is so much more important, so much more meaningful, and so much more eternal than simply winning basketball games. Our aim is to be like Christ. However, to be like Christ requires more than simply drinking gatorade, or going to church, or being baptized.

Peter tells his readers and in order to be like Christ, they are going to have to endure suffering, and they need to suffer well. In 1 Peter 4:12-19, Peter gives his readers reasons and encouragement on how to be like Christ by enduring suffering for the name of Christ well. And the rewards are so much more than millions of dollars, fame, and championship rings.

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1. 1 PETER 4:12-19. What is something the Lord highlighted to you this morning from the message? Any thoughts or questions?

2. 1 PETER 4:12. Peter tells the dispersed Christians that they should not be surprised by fiery trials. What were some of the dangers that could come from being surprised by suffering?

3. 1 PETER 4:14. Peter tells his readers that when they insulted for the sake of Christ, they are blessed and that "the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you."

If you were to say you are blessed by God, would you have these circumstances in mind? What does someone typically mean when they say they are blessed?

Have you ever felt a heightened sense of God's presence or comfort during a time of social rejection or trial? What did that look like?

4. 1 PETER 4:15-16. What are some ways that Peter says that Christians are to suffer, and what are some ways that Christians should not suffer? Why is this distinction so important?

6. PRAY. How can we pray for each other to suffer well when we suffer for the name of Christ?