

SOJOURNERS AND STRANGERS

1 PETER 3:1-6 | THE EXAMPLE OF SARAH

In the year a.d. 397 an aging saint in the Christian faith wrote what would become one of the most compelling autobiographies ever published. When the book was finally finished, he titled his own tale *The Confessions of Saint Augustine*.

Buried in this celebrated narrative is the moving tribute Augustine gave his mother, Monica, on the influence she had in bringing her unbelieving husband, Patricius, to personal faith in Jesus. Augustine described his mother's role with these words:

She served her husband as her master, and did all she could to win him [to God], speaking to him [about God] by her conduct, by which [God] made her beautiful.... Finally, when her husband was at the end of his earthly span, she gained him for [God].

It doesn't take much for us to envision Augustine's mother, hard-pressed for years in a difficult marriage, looking for strength to go on in the quiet words and understated promises of 1 Peter 3:1-2. Perhaps she even had the verse committed to memory.

You could say that Augustine's mother received the full outcome of what Peter promised back in 2:12. One result of a Christian's doing good works is that some unbelieving people will, in the end, give God unending glory. With that encouragement before us, our text emerges within its context.

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1. 1 PETER 3:1-6. What is something the Lord highlighted to you this morning from the message? Any thoughts or questions?

2. 1 PETER 3:1-2. What is the first command of this section? What does it mean “they may be won without a word”? How have some misunderstood this text and, therefore, understood it to be a false proof text for submitting to abuse?

3. 1 PETER 3:3-5. What does the world teach that beauty is? What does 1 Peter 3:3-5 teach that true beauty is? Do you believe this? How are women to demonstrate this? How are men to also uphold this standard of beauty?

4. 1 PETER 3:6. Why is Sarah given as an example of submission? What does it mean that she was “calling Abraham lord?”

5. 1 PETER 3:6. Wives are called not to “fear anything that is frightening.” What does this passage mean?

6. PRAY. How can we pray for wives, and future wives, to submit like Sarah? How can we pray for husbands, and future husbands, to honor and uphold the example of Sarah?