

June 11th, 2023

Ready to Suffer?

FORGED

- **Sanctification Process:** being made *holy/godly* (more like Him and less like your natural self).
- We are “*called out*” in our lifestyle, worldview, etc.
- We are *foreigners/aliens*—this is not our home, heaven is!

LAST WEEK

- Holiness/godliness includes submission to authority in:
 - The world sphere (*work*) **1 Peter 2**.
 - The home sphere (*marriage/parenting*) **1 Peter 3**.
 - The church sphere (*to elders*) **1 Peter 5**.
 - **All spheres require humility!**

Ready to Suffer?

(Suffering is a huge theme hit in every chapter of **1 Peter**.)

1) Don't be surprised by suffering—be READY (**1 Peter 1:6-7; 4:12-13**)

- A joyful response—**James 1:2-4; Romans 5:3-5**.
- **MANY** trials (**John 16:33; Psalm 34:19**).
- Enduring **THROUGH** is the way out (**1 Corinthians 10:13; Psalm 23:4**).

2) SOURCES of this pain and suffering (**1 Peter 2:11-12**).

- The pain we cause ourselves from our own sin and our own poor choices.
- The pain/persecution we receive from others based on our beliefs and lifestyle.
- **NOT** mentioned here, but pain from disease, catastrophes, war, random crimes, etc. that are not tied to our character or walk with God.

3) WHY does God allow suffering?

- Not an easy question to answer and the reality is, there are things we just don't understand. But what we do know is that:
 - He is able to work all things together for good—**Romans 8:28**.
 - To make us more like His Son—**Romans 8:29; Hebrews 5:8**.

4) Suffering based on GODLY character (**1 Peter 2:15; 2 Timothy 3:12**).

- The goal is **GOD'S WILL**, not ease and comfort.
- **HE** is pleased when we suffer for **HIS** purposes (*we have a spiritual adversary, so there will be opposition*).
- Don't confuse your sin and bad choices with “*God's Will*”.
- Don't abandon God's methodology of reaching the world even though it hurts sometimes.
- **1 Peter 4:8; John 13:34-35; Ephesians 4:2**.

5) JESUS' example in suffering (**1 Peter 2:22-24**).

- His character was free of sin.

- He did not respond or fight back with earthly weapons.
- He entrusted Himself to God whose character is reliable.

6) Our **RESPONSE** to suffering (1 Peter 3:8-12).

- Our unity matters (church, family, etc.)
- Sympathize and love each other with a tender heart...not a hard heart.
- Humility is key. It's not about us, but His bigger story!
- Give blessings; not payback.
- Holiness is the key to satisfaction...not the pursuit of happiness.
- God is in tune with what's happening and is waiting to return so that more can repent.

7) Keep **ENDURING**.

- 1 Peter 4:19; 5:10.

OUR RESPONSE:

- Have you accepted Him? Have you come to the Father through Jesus, His Son?
- If so, don't lose sight of this bigger perspective that His will is for you to do good, to love, and to continue to endure amidst suffering. **HE is PLEASSED** with you. Stay the course!

TO DISCUSS IN LIFE GROUP OR WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Passages to consider: 1 Peter 3:13-4:19 (NIV)

Ice Breaker: If someone pulls a practical joke on you, do you tend to be a "*return the favor*", "*get one ahead*", or "*just let it go*" kind of person? What is a memorable practical joke for you?

- What from the sermon was meaningful or important to you?
 - 1) Read 1 Peter 3:13-18; 4:1-6. What does this passage help us understand about suffering?
 - 2) When you think of suffering, what comes to mind?
 - 3) When you feel misunderstood or sense that you have been treated unjustly, how do you typically respond? Think of a time you have experienced this. If you are willing, share it. How does that experience fit with what this passage is expressing?
 - 4) Read 1 Peter 4:7-11. What stands out to you from this passage? How is your abiding relationship with Jesus being impacted by the urgency of eternity? What has God given you to share and serve others with?
 - 5) Read 1 Peter 4:12-19. When have you been surprised by what is going on by trials or strange situations? What helps you be aware if a difficult situation is from following Jesus, or from your own choices?
 - 6) In light of the sermon and these passages, how would you adjust your responses to challenging situations? Think of difficult situations you have been a part of, and what would you do differently?

NEXT WEEK: Read through 1 Peter at least once – try a chapter a day.

Passages to prepare: 1 Peter 5