



The Epistles of Peter
1 Peter 2:21-25
From Sermon 11.16. 25

Read 1 Peter 2:21-25

Overview from Sunday's sermon: Amazingly, right in the middle of his teachings on endurance, God the Holy Spirit has Peter direct our eyes onto Jesus. That is always needed and beneficial. But here, it transports us to the bigger picture. Jesus isn't just our model in enduring a hostile world—He is our Shepherd, Sustainer, and Advocate. He is sovereignly in control and fully aware of our condition. He is faithful and will provide all the grace and strength we will need to glorify Him, even in the pain.

1. What would happen in our human growth and development if we never encountered trials and hardships? This is actually an issue in modern-day parenting = protecting kids from all risks. Keeping kids from challenges and pain. Yet, problems in our young life prepare us for the future genuinely big problems. Examples: the reason we get painful shots as babies and kids, is to build up antibodies from deadly disease. The reason for bootcamp and the hardest of tests is to prepare soldiers for the battlefield.

2. Who would be some helpful examples of trials and suffering from the Bible? Various answers. Joseph (from Genesis), Moses, David, Jeremiah, Daniel and his friends, The Apostles, Paul.

2a. But who is the ultimate example that bore more tribulations than anyone? Jesus. See Isaiah 53:4-6

3. How did Jesus respond to trials and adversity? He never retaliated, lied, or reviled. He always kept sight of the bigger picture and purpose. He endured knowing the reward in the end.

4. Who or what was the cause of Jesus' greatest trials and pain. Me. My sin. His desire to reconcile me to Himself.

4a. How does that truth help put your tribulations in perspective? Various Personal Answers

5. From this series and previous lessons: from Scripture, what are listed benefits of trials:

- 1) They prove that we are Christ's. See John 15:18-20 & Philippians 3:8-11
- 2) They build hope. See Romans 5:3-5
- 3) They invest in our reward. See 2 Timothy 4:8
- 4) They cause us to rely fully on God (vs self or the world). See 2 Corinthians 1:8-9

6. Is it a sin to ask God to remove your troubles? No. Not at all. But He may say "no" or "not now".

6a. When do our troubles become sins? When we blame God, live in bitterness, hate others, or excuse our sin because of our circumstances.

7. What is the doctrine of Christ as the Approver? Nothing I go through, as a believer, didn't first pass by God's stamp of approval. He gave Satan approval to try Job, the Apostles, and Paul. He will/does grant the enemy permission to test me.

7a. Does this encourage you or discourage you? Why? Various Personal Answers