***Omega: BIB 109***

***1st Peter – Always Be Prepared***

***Lesson 10***

***I. Following Jesus***

🡪 1st Peter 2:21-25

* In 1st Peter 2:21 the Apostle Peter says that “you have been called.”
  + Usually when the NT says that we have “been called,” it is referring to the drawing power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ as it calls sinners to forsake sin and to turn to Jesus for Salvation. (John 12:32 and Romans 1:6-7,16 and 1st Peter 2:9)
  + Sometimes, though, the call goes out to Christians, inviting and exhorting them to deeper levels of service to our Lord.

* + The calling to which Peter refers here seems to be of the latter type. He says that Christians have been called to keep on following Jesus, even when the path get steeper and more difficult to navigate.
  + The Old Hymn Illustrates...

Down in the valley with the savior I will go,

Where the flowers are blooming and the sweet waters flow.

Everywhere He leads me I will follow, follow on –

Walking in His footsteps till the crown be won!

Follow, follow! I will follow Jesus!

Anywhere, everywhere, I will follow on.

Follow, follow! I will follow Jesus!

Everywhere He leads me I will follow on.

🡪 We have indeed been called, and we “have decided to follow Jesus.” In this present passage though Peter wants to be sure that we recognize that following Jesus means that we will be led in the path of unjust suffering.

***A. Jesus is Our Example...***

1. Peter’s main point about following Jesus is found in verse 21-23.

2. Jesus IS our example; He has left “an example for (us) to follow in His steps.”

3. The word “example” literally mean a writing or drawing placed under a clean, thin sheet of paper and visible through that top sheet.

A. What is written or drawn on the bottom sheet can then be traced onto the top one.

B. In this analogy, Jesus is of course the bottom sheet and we are the top one.

C. We are seeking to follow the path of the lines walked by Jesus during His life on earth.

4. A Word of Caution...

A. It is possible to press this idea too far. Jesus did not come for the purpose of setting an example for us to live by.

1. i.e., Charles Sheldon: \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_?

B. It is critical to understand that not everything Jesus did was meant to be an example for others. In fact, the most important things about Jesus are the words that were unique to his personal mission which others cannot do.

5. The important thing about Jesus’ example is more in the ***way*** He did things, than in the specific things He did.

A. Philippians 2:5-11...

1. We are to imitate His attitude of humility and unselfishness.

2. We cannot imitate His incarnation, Redemptive death, and ascension as Lord.

B. We should not seek to do what Jesus did on the cross, which is impossible, nor even should we seek martyrdom by crucifixion. Peter’s main point is that we can and should accept our sufferings in the ***way*** Jesus accepted Him.

6. Peter appeals first of all to Jesus’ most general example for us, namely, His sinlessness. (See Isaiah 53:9 & Luke 23:41 & 2 Cor. 5:21)

A. Jesus committed no sin, especially while submitting to the unjust treatment of the Jewish and Roman leaders.

B. In these circumstances, Jesus sinned neither in deed or in word.

C. We are commanded to be perfect. This must always be our goal. Matthew 5:48 & 1st Peter 1:15-16.

7. The bottom line – especially in context of this book – is that Jesus is our example in regard to how we face persecution.

A. Jesus was reviled, insulted, and mocked. He suffered great physical pain at the hands of others.

1. Yet He was guilty of no wrongdoing – 1st Peter 2:22

2. We are to act the same way (See Matt. 5:38-41)

B. Jesus entrusted Himself into the hands of His heavenly Father – who He knew would one day bring his persecutors to justice.

***B. Jesus is Our Redeemer...***

1. Verse 24 – Peter continues his teaching about Jesus death.

A. Peter has already affirmed that Jesus paid the redemption price for our salvation in 1:18-19. Here he tells us again how Jesus has saved us from our sins.

B. Making it very personal, he uses first person – “our sins” – and second person – “you were healed.”

2. How did Jesus do this? Two things are said here about what He was doing on the cross.

A. First – “He bore our sins in His body on the cross.”

(See Isaiah 53:12)

1. Literally, Peter says Jesus “carried up” our sins onto the cross.

2. The word “bore” means “carried up” – a word used for offering up a sacrifice upon the altar.

A. Heb. 7:27; 13:5 & James 2:21 & 1st Pet. 2:5

3. Peter continues by saying Jesus bore our sin “in His body.”

A. When He ascended the cross, He was carrying in His own body all the shame and guilt and degradation of our sins.

B. This is why God became a man: so He that as a human being He could suffer for our sins in our place.

1. Hebrews 10:5 & Isa. 53:6,10

4. Where did Jesus carry up our sins? “On the cross”. The word used here for cross is literally wood. It is used for the cross in Acts 5:30; 10:39; 13:29, and is usually translated as “tree” or “cross.”

A. To be hung on a tree was symbolic of committing a heinous crime and deserving to be punished by death according to Deuteronomy 21:22-23.

B. Galatians 3:13... “Cursed in everyone who hangs on a tree”

5. “Our sins, guilt, curse he bore, they brought him to the wood; shall we, then, not quietly bear our suffering and follow in his tracks?” R.C.H. Lenski

B. Secondly, Peter says, “By His wounds we are healed.”

1. A paradox – His wound accomplished our healing.

3. This truth emerges as we consider Peter’s thoughts... Jesus our Redeemer was suffering unjustly, not just from His human tormentors, but from God the Father Himself.

A. Jesus suffering was not just; it was not fair; it was not deserved by Him!

B. He was suffering as a substitute for those who DO deserve it:

Namely \_\_\_\_!

1. 2nd Cor. 5:21 & 1st Peter 3:18

C. Peter is here thus affirming the fundamental doctrine of substitutionary atonement.

D. The result that comes from Jesus suffering in our place is that we are healed with respect to our sins.

4. We die to our sin. The word for “die” here is not the usual one; this one mean literally “cease to exist.” I.e., we no longer exist – as sinners. This applies especially to our being justified by His blood.

A. Because we are justified, when God looks at us through the covering of Christ’s blood, He does not see us as sinners who deserve hell.

B. It also means – we are to stop sinning. We are supposed to die to our sins – to separate ourselves from our sins. Rom. 6:1-4

***C. Jesus is Our Shepherd...***

1. Vs 25 – “You were continually straying like sheep.”

A. Now that we are saved, we are like sheep that have returned to the care of the shepherd.

B. The main point is that, for their own sake, sheep need to be under the care of a shepherd. Jesus is that shepherd.

C. Shepherd and Guardian – Poimen and Episkopos.

1. Pastor and Bishop/Overseer

D. Jesus protects, guides, and directs His sheep.

2. What specifically does Jesus do for us as our Shepherd and Overseer?

A. He provides us with food for the soul – Psalm 23:1-2 & Isaiah 40:11

B. He gives us protection from our enemies – Psalm 23:4 & John 10:11-15

C. He leads and directs us – Psalm 23:3 & Isa. 40:11 & Ezekiel 37:24

D. And He seeks us when we go astray – Luke 15:3ff.

3. When we accept Jesus’ offer of salvation, we are placing ourselves under His care as our Shepherd.

A. There is another sense in which we “follow Jesus.” We not only follow his example in the way described previously above; we also, like sheep, follow His shepherding instruction and guidance.

Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need thy tender care.

In thy pleasant pastures feed us; for our use thy folds prepare.

We are thine; do thou befriend us; be the Guardian of our way.

Keep thy flock; from sin defend us; seek us when we go astray.

Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus: hear, O hear us when we pray!

Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus: hear, O hear us when we pray![[1]](#footnote-1)

1. Entire Lesson pulled from: Studies in 1st Peter – Dr. Jack Cottrell. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)