

1 Peter 2:21-25

²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²² He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³ When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. *ESV*

When you first learned how to write your letters and numbers your teacher gave you a pattern to trace your pencil over the top of. By tracing the dotted pattern, you learned how to shape your letters and numbers correctly. In verse 22, Peter uses this same word for pattern which is called a “hypogrammon.” It means “*example, pattern.*” It is precisely what Peter is trying to say to illustrate the example of the submission in suffering of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Just as a student will learn writing by tracing all the letters of the alphabet, so the Christian learns the pattern of trusting the Heavenly Father by following the example of Jesus Christ. This means that there is not one part of our life that cannot be fashioned into the image of Christ. Not one “letter” to be left out of His pattern. He is the fullness of grace for every part of our life.

There are three ways in which this pattern of trusting the Father became life-changing for us: Pattern, Provision and Power.

Pattern. Christ’s example of trusting the Father became the literal means for our salvation. We were saved through the unique suffering of One. His sinlessness was not without test. Our sin tested the sinlessness of Christ. In this extreme testing of suffering, even unto death, Christ refused to intimidate, threaten or retaliate (v. 22). By doing this He was qualifying as the perfect example of submission. However, His pattern of submission was not only in death. The

grammar used in this verse indicates a clear continuation of submission meaning that it is ongoing...meaning submission characterized His entire life.

Provision. He gave *life*, not *death* even during His life (by means of healing miracles). Why should His death be any different? Even in His death He gave life—eternal life! Did Jesus Christ entrust Himself wholly unto the Father in total submission even unto death? Absolutely.

Was God the Father trustworthy? Christ’s qualifications to be the perfect substitute and Savior of sinful man had been tested. But was the Father able to be trusted when Christ laid down His life before the world and the Father on the cross? God the Father demonstrated trustworthiness by being the one who “judges justly” (v. 23). Christ’s confidence was not only in His own perfect qualification as a sinless sacrifice, but also in the thorough justice of the Holy Judge—God the Father. **Jesus Christ delivered Himself through the humbling act of incarnation leading to His crucifixion into the safe keeping of the Father.** Furthermore, the body of Christ was buried in a sealed tomb entrusting that He would be resurrected.

Power. Jesus Christ carried our sins to the finality of the judgment. Notice that He “carried” and that He did not offer. The cross was not an altar, it was a

place of judgment—Jesus was the offering, the alter himself. **The wrath of God poured out against sin onto Jesus at the cross was the ultimate judgment for sin.**

Isaiah 53:4-11

⁴Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. ⁶All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned---every one---to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. ⁷He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. ⁸By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? ⁹And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. ¹⁰Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. ¹¹Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

“His wounds” is a singular word—as one would look upon Him, He was one “wound.” Righteousness is not forensic, academic or impersonal. Righteousness is a position of right standing producing new life. We are given not merely forgiveness but a new life through Christ’s ultimate

act of delivering Himself unto the just judgment for man’s sin by God the Father, the Judge.

LIFE APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

- 1. As a Christian, you cannot possibly suffer anything that has not been funneled to you through the cross. Do you understand that you no longer stand under condemnation? Please read John 3:16-17.***
- 2. You can only fit into the pattern as you fit yourself into Christ. No power of your own can accomplish what only Christ can do in you. What pattern of patience in suffering are you following? Man’s self-determination or faith in God’s provision of a pattern, provision and power?***
- 3. Your suffering isn’t about your comfort. You were called to suffer. There is something far more weighty in your submission taking place. Namely the testimony of the Savior to a world that will do anything to avoid suffering. How is your suffering today demonstrating the grace of Christ to a world full of sufferers?***
- 4. Entrusting your suffering to the Father’s care is not a gamble. It is the acknowledgment that what is taking place already has an end that has been written and it is praiseworthy! Do you believe this?***

*If you have any questions about this lesson,
please connect with me!*

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