

Jesus Christ – Our Perfect Example

Sermon by Andy Sochor

Text: 1 Peter 2:21-25

In this passage, Peter explained that Jesus left an example for us to follow. There are many people we may look to as examples in life; yet Jesus was not just an example, He was the perfect example. This passage shows us how Jesus is the perfect example.

An Example of *Suffering*

- “Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example” (v. 21) – Jesus knew He would die on the cross (Matthew 16:21), yet He did not try to avoid it; He knew why it was going to happen (v. 24; Isaiah 53:4-5), but He loved us enough to endure it; He even had the power to prevent His death (Matthew 26:51-54), but He did not change His mind; He suffered beyond what any of us will ever have to endure; this is an example for us
- The Christian life involves suffering (2 Timothy 3:12) – when we do what is right and suffer for it, we must patiently endure (v. 20); we must not abandon our faith

An Example of *Sinlessness*

- “...who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth...” (v. 22) – even though all men have sinned (Romans 3:23), Jesus did not; when He was tempted, He used the Scriptures to resist each time (Matthew 4:1-11); the chief priests tried to find witnesses to testify against Him, but there was no reason to condemn Him (Matthew 26:59-60)
- We are to strive to follow His sinless example (1 John 2:1) – “Go...sin no more” (John 8:11); God has extended His grace to us, yet we must not use this as an excuse to sin (Romans 6:1-2; Jude 4)

An Example of *Reliance upon God*

- “...kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously...” (v. 23) – when His enemies “reviled” Him, He did not respond in kind (Isaiah 53:7); He came to do the Father’s will (John 6:38); He relied upon the Father to help Him carry out His work (Luke 22:42-43)
- We are to do the will of God (Matthew 7:21) – we must put our trust in the Lord as we do so (Proverbs 3:5-7); as we face suffering in this life, trust in God and the hope that He offers (2 Corinthians 1:8-10)

An Example of Sacrifice

- “He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross...” (v. 24) – Jesus did not go to the cross on account of His own sins (v. 22), He died for our sins (1 Peter 3:18); He freely gave His life as a sacrifice for us (John 10:17-18); He died for us while we were “helpless,” “sinners,” and “enemies” of God (Romans 5:6, 8, 10)
- We must be willing to sacrifice our lives for Him (Romans 12:1) – “it is no longer I who live...” (Galatians 2:20); this also means we should be willing to sacrifice for our brethren (1 John 3:16)

Conclusion

- As Peter concluded this section, he reminded us of how we have strayed from the Lord (v. 25) – now, we must stay with Him; if we have strayed away again, we must return to Him
- He is our Shepherd – our leader, guide
- He is our Guardian – our protector
- We need to submit our lives to Him – follow His perfect example