

Sermon: Your Reaction to Unfair Treatment

Text: I Peter 2:19-25 ESV

Gary L. Wackler

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Introduction: Most prospective church members are not approached on the basis of what it is going to cost them to be a disciple of Jesus and a member of the Body. Suffer? Are you kidding me? (Mention John Bray) Most want to know what the Church is going to do for them to make their lives easier. But the Apostle Peter had some different ideas.

Read: Acts 14:22; Romans 5:3-4, 8:17; Philippians 1:29; I Thessalonians 3:3-4; ; II Timothy 3:12 and Hebrews 5:18 to learn more about suffering.

I. Christians Are Called to Experience _____.

A. _____

B. _____/_____

II. Christians Are Called to _____.

A. _____ suffering

B. being constantly aware of _____

C. not to _____

III. Christians Are Called to _____ in Jesus' Steps.

A. in the area of His sinless _____

B. in the area of speech

C. actively _____ and _____

Conclusion: Jesus looks at His creation and sees people who are sick and broken by sin and in need of His care. And when we surrender to Him, it is His embrace that disarms us.

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19 For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. 20 For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. 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.

“Loneliness is not a thing of itself, not an evil sent to rob us of the joys of life. Loneliness, loss, pain, sorrow, these are disciplines, God’s gifts to drive us to his very heart, to increase our capacity for him, to sharpen our sensitivities and understanding, to temper our spiritual lives so that they may become channels of his mercy to others and so bear fruit for his kingdom. But these disciplines must be seized upon and used...They must not be seen as excuses for living in the shadow of half-lives, but as messengers, however painful, to bring our souls into vital contact with the living God, that our lives may be filled to overflowing with himself in ways that may, perhaps, be impossible to those who know less of life’s darkness.”