

Suffer Well

Richard Hardy / General

Suffering; God: Grace / 1 Peter 2:19–25

Everyone suffers. Sometimes we suffer for doing the right thing. Sometimes even with God on our side, bad things happen. We feel the pain; we feel the sadness; we feel the sorrow. But without diminishing the pain we feel Christ shows us the benefit and joy in suffering through looking at the things His suffering accomplished.

Ways We Are Suffering Today

Suffering for Doing Good

1. What do we do when we suffer unjustly?

2 Things

MAY GOD'S GRACE AND PEACE BE MULTIPLIED TO YOU

THE GIFT OF GOD FAR OUT WEIGHS ALL SUFFERING

Grace of Suffering

1 Peter 2:19–20 ESV

For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. 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.

Grace defined - getting something good you don't

deserve

Grace Bookends These Verses

The choice to say it twice holds powerful meaning

Whenever I have suffered whether it is mental, physical, or spiritual it takes all our energy and focus.

Before I begin.

- a. suffering is real and it is not easy to go through
- b. suffering makes you feel bad
- c. suffering, sadness, grief, etc... does not make you less of a Christian.

We Are Talking Specifically About Unjust Suffering.

1. If you are suffering because you deserve the punishment your getting, well, it's sad, but you deserve it.
2. Punishment for crime
3. Health issues from doing things that put you in poor health.

How do we go through suffering... especially when it's not our fault?

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Suffering is Not a Suprise

1 Peter 2:21 ESV

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.

We are born into it.

Job 5:7 ESV

but man is born to trouble as the sparks fly upward.

It has benefit

Romans 5:3–5 ESV

Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Through Christ we know suffering is turned to good.

Romans 8:28 ESV

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

How do we get through that suffering?

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LET'S SEE WHAT HE DID

Christ is our Example

He did nothing wrong.

1 Peter 2:22 ESV

He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth.

The problem they had was that His truth massed with the reality that the people of the world had.

The people that had power wanted to retain their power.

The people wanted to stay in their sin rather than be set free from it.

He did the opposite of what human nature wants to do.

1 Peter 2:23 ESV

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.

1. We want to treat people dependent upon how they treat us. Eye for eye, tooth for tooth.
2. We want justice for the wrongs that have been done for us.
3. His Example says, "It is not my job to make sure you get your come uppins."
 - a. He can warn about the punishment,
 - b. He can talk about the requirements to avoid the punishment
 - c. He did not enforce the punishment.

John 14:6 ESV

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

4. He put his trust in the one who has the authority to judge.
5. He put his trust in the fact that the Judge judges justly.

His Suffering gave us Eternal Glory

1 Peter 2:24 ESV

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.

He bore our sins as the only perfect and holy person that has ever walked the face of this earth.

When He bore EVERY person's sin, there was not an ounce of revenge in His eyes.

- He forgave the thief.
- He forgave those who pounded the nails.
- He understood that we were in such a place that we couldn't even help ourselves.
 - Father forgive them for the **know not what they do.**

We were created, every one of us, in His image.

Sin and its results held us in prison

His death suffering springs the latch and we are free.

That was what He was suffering for—

Our redemption

Our freedom

By His wounds, we have been healed!!!!

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Our Redemption

1 Peter 2:25 ESV

For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Straying Like Sheep

1. A sheep without a shepherd just wanders looking to fill its own desires.
 - Sheep know that the best way to get their wants filled is by having a good shepherd
 - He is a quiet, safe place for us rather than chaotic dangerous places
 - He is still water to drink from rather than a raging current to sweep us away to destruction.
 - When we are weak he gives us strength in our soul
 - When real darkness and injustice surrounds us, we do not need to fear... He is our protector, our guide, for sake of time..... let's just read it.

Psalm 23 ESV

A PSALM OF DAVID. The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Conclusion

This message is supposed to be about what to do when suffering unjustly. As I started to dive into the message about how hard life is and studying through the passage. By the time I was done going through all the things Jesus did for me, I forgot that this is a message about suffering...

What He has done is so far higher than any thing on earth we learn that dwelling on who He is becomes the way through our struggles here on earth.

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