



# 1 Peter

The Journey Home

## Follow the Leader

**1 Peter 2:18-25**

Message #6 of 12 – S683

**Sermon given on April 3, 2016**



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

# Follow the Leader

## *1 Peter 2:18-25*

### Opening Comments

- Turn to **1 Peter 2**
- Today, we continue our series through the first letter from Peter – **The Journey Home**
- My first job, where I had a boss, was delivering newspapers
- That was about forty five years ago and since then I have worked for many people
- Some of those people were easy to get along with and some of them weren't
- I learned early on in life that there is no such thing as a perfect boss
- There was even a period of my life when I was running my own business
- Unfortunately, even when I was my own boss, I didn't have the perfect boss
- It was God's original plan that people would work during their time on this journey we call life
- And the reality of this world is that most of us will work for someone else most of our lives
- What I didn't learn for a long time was that how I worked for someone else affected others around me
- Peter is going to talk to us today and encourage us to work for others in such a way that everyone around us will see God
- And he is going to do it by telling you to do something that was shocking to his original readers and will be just as shocking today
- If you are able and willing to do so, please stand as we read today's text as a sign of reverence for God's Word
- Read **1 Peter 2:18-25**
- **Pray**

### Teaching

- **Follow the Leader**

- If Jesus left us an example, it makes sense that He would want us to follow it, right?
  - Our first point – **Willingly Submit**
  - **1 Peter 2:18**
  - Most of us can't relate to the servant/master image
  - It is equivalent to the modern employer/employee relationship
  - Peter is calling his readers and us to do something that is absolutely unnatural
  - Be submissive to your masters/employers
  - That means we should be willing to do what they want us to do
  - That isn't shocking it is the second part – 'not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh.'
  - Throughout my life in all the jobs I have done, one thing I know for certain, my interests superseded all others
  - I was working for my benefit, to accomplish my goals, to meet my needs or my desires
  - And as long as your interests paralleled mine, everything was okay
  - Most people view their role as employee from the same view that I had – from a very self-oriented viewpoint
  - So when an employer begins to act negatively toward us, we react
  - But Peter is saying that we shouldn't react
  - In fact, saying that we ought serve the harsh employer in the same way as we would the good and gentle one
  - Paul sets the bar even higher **Ephesians 6:5-7**
- Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men...**
- As Christians, any job that we get is from the Lord, and it is Christ that we serve as we do that job
  - And that service might even include being treated unfairly
  - Our second point – **Patiently Endure**
  - **1 Peter 2:19-20**
  - No one wants to suffer wrongfully = unjustly, or underserved suffering at the hands of others, in this case our employer

- Being treated unfairly – falsely accused of something
- It happens – maybe you have experienced it or are experiencing it right now
- When our natural self is ruling our lives – we will respond with anger, lashing out, talking about the employer, maybe not giving our all, or quitting, and even suing them
- Peter, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit calls us to a totally different response
- In verse 19 he says we are to ‘endure grief, suffering wrongly’ and in verse 20 ‘take it patiently’
- Peter is saying that if you suffer wrongfully at your job, your right response is to patiently endure it
- Turn to **Romans 12**
- That is not natural – it is not unnatural to take it patiently when you suffer for doing something wrong
- Totally another thing to not get into your flesh when you suffer for something you didn’t do
- It proves something about you – you have ‘conscience toward God’
- That speaks of the awareness of God’s presence in your life
- And of the reality that He knows what is going on, and is still in control
- When we respond in some way other than patiently enduring we are proving that we do not believe that God is going to do anything about it and we have to
- The Apostle Paul reminds us to let God be God
- **Romans 12:17-21**
- When we patiently endure the wrongful things that are done to us, we are proving that God is in control, and He is going to take care of it
- Turn back to **1 Peter 2**
- And when we patiently endure – God notices – twice ‘commendable’
- Jesus talked about this in **Matthew 5:10-12**

**Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.**

- When we do good and suffer wrongfully, and we do it patiently, trusting God, God notices and reserves for us a great reward in heaven
- And Jesus tells us to ‘rejoice and be exceedingly glad’ about it
- Only someone who is totally surrendered to following Christ can do that – it is not easy
- And I know there have been many times in my life when I was convinced that it was impossible – I just couldn’t see how to do it
- Thankfully, God didn’t leave us without an example to follow
- Third point – **Humbly Following**
- **1 Peter 2:21**
- ‘to this you were called’ – this is a truth that most American Christians do not want to hear
- Christ lived a perfect life and did good works
- As a Christian you are to follow Christ’s example and do good
- And if you do good, following Christ’s example you are likely to suffer wrongfully, just like Jesus – you were called to this
- That means it is part of God’s plan for your life, and for my life
- I would be unfaithful to God to withhold this truth from you **Warren Wiersbe**

**Jesus proved that a person could be in the will of God, be greatly loved by God, and still suffer unjustly.**

- Good Christians are not immune to unjust suffering
- And good pastors and churches will be faithful to prepare people for the suffering that is coming to this world
- Peter then gives us 5 things about Jesus that we are to imitate
- **1 Peter 2:22**
- Peter quotes Isaiah 53:9 – whole chapter is about the suffering that Jesus would endure 700 years before it happened
- First example – **Committed no Sin**
- When we are faced with unjust suffering we tend to respond in the flesh **Romans 7:18a**

**For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells...**

- Just because we are being treated unjustly doesn’t justify us sinning in response
- Second example – **No Deceit in His Mouth**

- Jesus was totally honest in His dealings with others, including those who were mistreating Him
- There is a temptation to stretch the truth or withhold information to avoid suffering – trust God and tell the truth – let God handle the consequences
- The next three are in the next verse
- **1 Peter 2:23**
- Third example – **Do not Revile in Return**
- Reviling is abusive speech
- Some bosses can't speak unless they are cursing, or demeaning their employees, or yelling
- To follow Jesus example, we don't respond with reviling
- Probably best to do it just like Jesus did **Matthew 26:62-63a**  
**And the high priest arose and said to Him, "Do You answer nothing? What *is it* these men testify against You?" But Jesus kept silent.**
- Fourth example – **Did not Threaten**
- Jesus had the power to have totally destroyed anyone who messed with Him
- But He so trusted in the Father's plan, that Jesus choose humbly submit to the unjust suffering inflicted upon Him
- If you want to follow Jesus' example, then don't threaten people when you are unjustly treated – trust God to defend you
- Fifth example – **Committed Himself to Him**
- Jesus committed Himself to God the Father and His plan and will
- That means when we are being unjustly treated by an employer or by anyone, that we turn to God the Father for everything
- And if we do that He will direct us about what we should do by the Holy Spirit and He will give us the power and strength to patiently endure it
- Peter prepares to finish this section telling us something that Jesus did that we can't imitate
- **1 Peter 2:24**
- Jesus took all our sins upon Himself when He went to the cross
- He died for our sins so that we wouldn't have to

- Also, ‘that we, having died to sins’ – the power of sin to enslave us was destroyed on the cross
- So that we ‘might live for righteousness’
- Because of His sacrifice, we are able to live right lives
- ‘by whose stripes you were healed’ – not about physical healing, but spiritual healing of the soul = freed from the penalty of our sins
- Closes with the testimony of all Christians
- **1 Peter 2:25**
- Once you were lost = going astray – in sin
- But now – returned to Shepherd and Overseer of our souls
- Once we were doing things our way, and the world didn’t really care or notice
- But once we return to Jesus and let Him be our Shepherd and Overseer – once we call ourselves Christians – the world starts noticing
- How we behave will testify to what we believe about Jesus
- And when we patiently endure during unjust suffering, trusting Almighty God some will notice
- It is not normal, not natural **William MacDonald**  
It is so unnatural, so other-worldly that it shocks people into conviction of sin and hopefully, into salvation.
- I would love to promise you that you will never experience unjust suffering while following Jesus and doing good
- The truth is, if you are faithful to Jesus and submit yourself to the leading of the Holy Spirit, you probably will be mistreated occasionally
- When it happens remind yourself that they mistreated the Perfect Son of God too
- Follow your leader Jesus and He will help you to endure it and he will use it to glorify God, to bless other, and to grow your faith
- Amen–**Pray**