

IN THE WAY OF HIS STEPS

PSALMS 85:13; 1 PETER 2:18-24

Text: Psalms 85:13, 1 Peter 2:21

Psalms 85:13

¹³ Righteousness shall go before him; and shall set *us* in the way of his steps.

1 Peter 2:21

²¹ For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

Introduction:

In 1896, a man by the name of Charles M. Sheldon penned the words of what has become a classic, and best-selling novel entitled —In His Steps. In this book, Sheldon retells a stories he used to read at Sunday evening gatherings.

It is the story of a local church whose members pledged, for an entire year, not to do anything without first asking the question, “What would Jesus do if He were in my place?” Following our Lord’s example brought great joy to this small-town congregation, but it also brought misunderstanding, conflict and difficulty.

It meant entire dedication of money, talent, career and influence to the cause of Christ.

The practice was based on 1 Peter 2:21.

1 Peter 2:21

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Our theme this year is found in Psalms 85:13.

Psalms 85:13

¹³ Righteousness shall go before him; and shall set *us* in the way of his steps.

Or in other words the steps that would be taken by Him would indicate the way in which His people should walk.

As we go throughout this year I want each of us to make a conscious effort to follow the example of our Saviour.

Lord willing over the next year we'll like at the life of our Saviour so that we might follow His example and follow the way of His steps.

Today we will consider as an introduction what Peter instructed us about His example and His steps.

Notice: His example of

1. SUFFERING (VS. 21)

1 Peter 2:21

²¹ For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

Christ left us an example or a standard by which we will be measured.

1 Thessalonians 3:1-4

¹ Wherefore when we could no longer forbear, we thought it good to be left at Athens alone; ² And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith: ³ That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto. ⁴ For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know.

1 Corinthians 4:9-16

⁹ For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men. ¹⁰ We *are* fools for Christ's sake, but ye *are* wise in Christ; we *are* weak, but ye *are* strong; ye *are* honourable, but we *are* despised. ¹¹ Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwellingplace; ¹² And labour, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it: ¹³ Being defamed, we intreat: we are made as the filth of the world, *and are* the offscouring of all things unto this day. ¹⁴ I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn *you*. ¹⁵ For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet *have ye* not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. ¹⁶ Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.

2 Timothy 3:12

¹² Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

2. SERVANT HOOD

John 13:13-17

¹³ Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for *so* I am. ¹⁴ If I then, *your* Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. ¹⁷ If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

3. SUPPLICATION

Notice the prayer life of our Saviour and may it serve as an example for us to follow.

A. Beginning of His ministry

Luke 3:21

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened,

B. Beginning of His day

Mark 1:35

³⁵ And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.

C. During the height of His ministry

Luke 5:15-16

¹⁵ But so much the more went there a fame abroad of him: and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by him of their infirmities. ¹⁶ And he withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed.

D. Before making a decision

Luke 6:12

¹² And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

He was praying for those that would carry on the work.

E. While alone with His disciples He prayed

Luke 9:18

¹⁸ And it came to pass, as he was alone praying, his disciples were with him: and he asked them, saying, Whom say the people that I am?

F. Before eating He prayed

Luke 9:16

¹⁶ Then he took the five loaves and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed them, and brake, and gave to the disciples to set before the multitude.

G. He prayed for others

Luke 22:31-32

³¹ And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired *to have you*, that he may sift *you* as wheat: ³² But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted,

strengthen thy brethren.

Romans 8:27

²⁷ And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what *is* the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*.

Romans 8:34

³⁴ Who *is* he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

Hebrews 7:25

²⁵ Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

H. He prayed for daily provisions, God's will to be done, to stay away from temptation, and deliverance from evil.

Luke 11:2-4

² And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth. ³ Give us day by day our daily bread. ⁴ And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

I. His first words on the cross is a prayer

Luke 23:34

³⁴ Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

J. His last words on the cross was a prayer

Luke 23:46

⁴⁶ And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.

4. SYMPATHY (COMPASSION)

Matthew 9:35-38

³⁵ And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. ³⁶ But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. ³⁷ Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly *is* plenteous, but the labourers *are* few; ³⁸ Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

Matthew 14:6-16

⁶ But when Herod's birthday was kept, the daughter of Herodias danced before them, and pleased Herod. ⁷ Whereupon he promised with an oath to give her whatsoever she would ask. ⁸ And she, being before instructed of her mother, said, Give me here John Baptist's head in a charger. ⁹ And the king was sorry: nevertheless for the oath's sake, and them which sat with him at meat, he commanded *it* to be given *her*. ¹⁰ And he sent, and beheaded John in the prison. ¹¹ And his head was brought in a charger, and given to the damsel: and she brought *it* to her mother. ¹² And his disciples came, and took up the body, and buried it, and went and told Jesus. ¹³ When Jesus heard *of it*, he departed thence by ship into a desert place apart: and when the people had heard *thereof*, they followed him on foot out of the cities. ¹⁴ And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and

was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick. ¹⁵ And when it was evening, his disciples came to him, saying, This is a desert place, and the time is now past; send the multitude away, that they may go into the villages, and buy themselves victuals. ¹⁶ But Jesus said unto them, They need not depart; give ye them to eat.

Matthew 15:32

³² Then Jesus called his disciples *unto him*, and said, I have compassion on the multitude, because they continue with me now three days, and have nothing to eat: and I will not send them away fasting, lest they faint in the way.

Matthew 20:34

³⁴ So Jesus had compassion *on them*, and touched their eyes: and immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed him.

Mark 1:41

⁴¹ And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth *his* hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean.

Mark 5:19

¹⁹ Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.

Luke 7:13

¹³ And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not.

Those who have compassion make a difference.

Jude 1:22

²² And of some have compassion, making a difference:

5. SORROW

Isaiah 53:1-10

¹ Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? ² For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, *there is* no beauty that we should desire him. ³ He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were *our* faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. ⁴ Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. ⁵ But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. ⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. ⁸ He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. ⁹ And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither *was any* deceit in his mouth. ¹⁰ Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put *him* to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see *his* seed, he shall prolong *his* days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

Close:

Christ is our example, and we should follow in His steps.