

# FOLLOW HIS STEPS – PT. 1

## 1 PETER 2:21

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### **1 Peter 2:21**

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

Introduction:

Think back to the time when you were a child, to that time when we followed in the footsteps of someone else.

I remember when I was younger and living at home my dad would take my brother and me our hunting. He would tell both my brother and I to walk in his steps so that we would not make too much noise.

And of course we would not always do as we were instructed.

Peter has written to those “strangers” who were living life on the run in five Roman provinces. Their lives had been uprooted; forced to abandon their homes, jobs, families, and all that was familiar to them because of their faith.

Peter comes to them with warm words of compassion and concern. He well understands the difficulties they face and has tried to encourage them to look unto the Lord for their strength. He has challenged them to pattern their lives after the Lord. With these thoughts in mind, I want to examine the pattern that Christ has left for us and our obligation to follow Him.

Note:

## **1. THE PRIORITY OF THE SAVED (vs. 21)**

### **1 Peter 2:21**

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

Here Peter reveals that all believers have an obligation to follow after the Lord and live as it pleases Him.

In order to fully understand this precept for living, we need to consider vs.20.

### **1 Peter 2:20**

*<sup>20</sup> For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.*

Peter states that there is no glory in being patient in rebuke for our faults, but it brings glory to God when we suffer for our faith and continue on patiently. This brings us to the priority of living our lives in light of Christ. Why should believers embrace this priority?

Why should we patiently endure the suffering of our faith?

#### A. We Are Called (vs. 21)

##### **1 Peter 2:21**

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

We have been called to live a life that honors the Lord in all that we do, even if that involves enduring suffering for His sake.

We have not been called to a life of ease and comfort.

Many believe that once we are saved that all our troubles will cease to exist and we will never face adversity.

That may be a popular way of thinking, but it certainly isn't biblical. In fact, the Bible tells us that all who will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

We have received a call to identify with the Lord and bear His name among men. This reveals to me that I am not to live my life as I please. I am identified with Christ. I am bearing His name and His likeness among the world as a witness to His grace and holiness. Far too many neglect this responsibility in our day. They assume that they can live as they please through the week among the world, and then come to church on Sunday and assume their place among the church. They have no problem identifying with the Lord in the church, but refuse to do so among the world.

(The world is where we need to bear the name of The Lord!)

## B. We Are Confronted (vs. 21)

### **1 Peter 2:21**

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

Peter knew that life was hard for these early believers. He knew the suffering and reproach that they bore.

He knew that many of them were forced to abandon life as they knew it because of their faith.

He too had suffered, but He also well understood that Christ suffered for us.

Note some of the things that the Lord suffered for us:

- Homelessness (Luke 9:58)

**Luke 9:58**

<sup>58</sup> *And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.*

- Rejection of Men (John 1:11)

**John 1:11**

<sup>11</sup> *He came unto his own, and his own received him not.*

- Accused of Being Demon Possessed (John 10:20)

**John 10:20**

<sup>20</sup> *And many of them said, He hath a devil, and is mad; why hear ye him?*

Betrayed By a Disciple (Matthew 26:15)

**Matthew 26:15**

<sup>15</sup> *And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver.*

Abandoned By His Friends (Matthew 26:56)

### **Matthew 26:56**

*<sup>56</sup> But all this was done, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled.*

Scourged By the Roman Soldiers (Mark 15:15)

### **Mark 15:15**

*<sup>15</sup> And so Pilate, willing to content the people, released Barabbas unto them, and delivered Jesus, when he had scourged him, to be crucified.*

- Mocked and Abused (Matthew 27:28-31)

### **Matthew 27:28-31**

*<sup>28</sup> And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe.*

*<sup>29</sup> And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews! <sup>30</sup> And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head. <sup>31</sup> And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him.*

- Crucified (Luke 23:33)

### **Luke 23:33**

<sup>33</sup> *And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left.*

Surely if Christ could suffer all of that for you and me, we could suffer the persecution of this world for Him. How many of us have really faced great adversity for our faith? The time may come when we will, and if it does, we must suffer with patience for the cause of Christ.

## C. We Are Charged

### **1 Peter 2:21**

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

Peter finishes his words concerning the believers' priority with a charge that is actually two-fold.

Notice:

- The Example

### **1 Peter 2:21**

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

The word example speaks of careful attention given to every detail so as to make an exact duplicate.

Christ has left the example that we are to copy. We are to strive to live our lives just as He lived His. We are to mimic and imitate every detail.

- The Expectation

### **1 Peter 2:21**

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

Peter reveals that there is an expectation that is to be achieved. We are to follow the steps of Christ.

This too has a very interesting aspect involved. It has the idea of a guide leading us along a treacherous and rocky path, so difficult that we must actually put our feet in his footprints. The word “follow” means “to tread in the same footsteps of another.”



Close:

This first verse has laid out the priority that all believers must heed. We have been called to bear the name of the Lord and identify with Him, even if that involves suffering for our faith. Christ has given us the example to follow and we are charged to walk in His way.