

FOLLOW HIS STEPS – PT. 2

1 PETER 2:21-25

Text: 1 Peter 2:21

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:*

Introduction:

Last week we began to look at this passage and I want to continue with this thought this morning.

The idea that Peter is putting forth is that we are to look unto the Lord and follow after Him, imitating His life through ours.

We will review and continue this study today.

Let's review:

1. THE PRIORITY OF THE SAVED (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:

A. We Are Called – “For even hereunto were ye called”

B. We Are Confronted – “because Christ also suffered for us”

C. We Are Charged – This is two-fold

- The example that Christ left us
- The expectation that Christ has of us

Notice Now

2. THE PURITY OF THE SAVIOUR (VS. 22-23)

1 Peter 2:22-23

²² *Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:*

²³ *Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:*

Last week we considered the suffering that the Lord endured while walking here upon the earth and these verses reveal the purity that He displayed for all to see.

Note:

A. His Character (vs. 22a) – “Who did no sin”

Humanity had never witnessed prior to Christ, nor since anyone who lived life free of sin.

Man was created in the image and likeness of God.

While Adam enjoyed life in the Garden of Eden, he walked in close fellowship with God in the cool of the day.

This was the desire of the Lord in creating man that He might fellowship with Him.

When Adam fell in sin, that fellowship was broken and the curse of sin was passed on to every succeeding generation.

Each of us here today were born under the curse of sin and separated from God because of it.

God is holy and righteous and He cannot condone or approve of sin.

His holiness demands that sin be atoned and reconciliation be made.

Mankind was and remains helpless to provide atonement for sin.

We are all sinners in need of salvation. None of us have lived one day free of sin.

B. His Communication (vs. 22b) – “Neither was guile found in His mouth”

1 Peter 2:22

²² Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

Never once was there any guile found in the mouth of the Lord.

This means that there was “no deceit observed, detected, or discovered” in the communication of Jesus.

He never spoke anything that was sinful or vile. He never spoke a word that was contrary to the will of God.

The Lord never promoted His own agenda or desires, only those of His Father.

All of His conversation revealed the Father and promoted His will.

Consider the words that we speak.

Much of what we speak is geared toward promoting ourselves or our agenda.

Many speak harsh words toward or about others in order to make themselves feel better.

Even within the church people are often critical or judgmental of others. Jesus set the example for our conversation.

The next time that we are tempted to complain, belittle, boast, pass judgment, or just speak things we shouldn't, we ought to consider the example of our Lord.

Notice some other passages that deal with our conversation:

Psalm 59:12

¹² For the sin of their mouth and the words of their lips let them even be taken in their pride: and for cursing and lying which they speak.

Matthew 12:34

³⁴ O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

Matthew 12:36

³⁶ But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

Colossians 4:6

⁶ Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

May our conversation always edify the Lord and His church.

Our conversation will either be a “build” or “break” will be a help or a hindrance to the e work of God.

No doubt many have fallen by the wayside due to the words and conversation of those who identified with the church.

This is one of the greatest needs in our day. May God’s people speak like we belong to Him!

C. His Conduct (vs. 23a) – “When He was reviled reviled not again, when He suffered, he threatened not”

1 Peter 2:23

²³ Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:

This verse speaks of the pristine character of the Lord.

When He was reproached and mocked, He did not return their mockery or reproach.

He was falsely accused and treated as a common criminal He never opened His mouth against His accusers.

Isaiah 53:7

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.

When He was scourged, beaten, and crucified, He bore the pain and suffering with grace and mercy.

Rather than speaking the word and bringing judgment upon those who crucified Him, the Lord asked the Father to forgive them.

What an example we find in the life of our Lord. To behave in such a manner is contrary to the flesh.

When someone speaks a harsh or critical word we want to lash out in return.

When someone hurts or wrongs us, we dwell on getting our opportunity to “return the favor.”

If we aren’t careful we may find ourselves being the one who is mocking or belittling others.

Note:

Luke 6:31

³¹ And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.

Matthew 5:38-39

³⁸ Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: ³⁹ But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.

Romans 12:19-20

¹⁹ Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. ²⁰ Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.

D. His Commitment (vs. 23b)

1 Peter 2:23

²³ *Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:*

Surely if Christ was committed to the death of the cross, we could be committed to a life lived for Him.

I wonder how many of us are actually committed to the Lord.

How many of us have committed to give our lives solely for the use and edifying of our Lord?

Close:

The Lord has set a high standard for living. I'm certain none of us have achieved His level of perfection, but we should strive to follow in His steps on a daily basis.

Do our lives reflect the life of Christ? Is He evident in our lives for the world to see?

Does our character, communication, conduct, and commitment following the example that Jesus left?

If not, then it is time to seek the Lord.