

A Practical Study of 1 PETER:

Practice for Suffering Saints

“How Suffering Fits in the Father’s Plan”

Key Verse: 1 Peter 5:10

“But the God of all Grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, shall himself make you complete, shall establish you, shall make you strong, shall ground you as on a foundation.”

Pattern Number Five – Follow the Coach – 1 Peter 2:18-25

Key Verse 2:21

Throughout the gospel oftentimes you hear Jesus saying these words and Peter had to be one who was listening.

Of course it was eventually said to him, “Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.”

Having grown up on the Sea of Galilee with Andrew his brother, and James and John the sons of Zebedee, these four fellows were incredible businessmen in the fishing industry.

And for the Lord to come to them and say, “Follow me and I’ll make you fishers of men” meant that they had to leave a vocation with which they were very familiar to go into something they didn’t know anything about.

The scripture speaks of them as “unlearned” and men who probably were hardly able to write their own names.

And then in Luke 9:23 we read this:

Luke 9:23

And he said to them all, [put your money where your mouth is—that’s just my translation] IF any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

The study today is basically that.

Peter has had a hard time following because he’s had a hard time with authority. And when you’ve got a hard time with authority like we talked about this morning, we have a tendency not to want to follow but to lead. And so many times we lead in the wrong direction.

The minute you try to anticipate what God is doing and leading you in your life, you’re going to make a mistake. Because God does not allow us the privilege of forecasting a direction that He is taking us.

If He did that, then you and I would have a part in what He's trying to do. And if you're making decisions in your life independent of His leadership, watch it. It's going to be for your own personal desires and is probably going to wreak a lot of havoc in your relationship with the Lord.

Be certain that it's a "Thus sayeth the Lord" and the still small voice is saying "This is the way, walk ye in it. When you turn to the right hand and when you turn to the left."

Now each one of these patterns builds one upon the other. We're in the subject of submission, which is the second key word to the epistle. The first was SALVATION, the second is SUBMISSION, and we're going to finish that in our next episode together. Then we're going to deal with SUFFERING in our last studies.

SALVATION,

SUBMISSION,

SUFFERING.

In episode #1 it was: Don't get shook, God has the controls. Why? Because we've been born again. Because we have an inheritance reserved for us and because we're kept by the power of God.

Study #2: What am I supposed to do in view of that? Get tough and start growing. Gird up the loins of my mind and start filling my mind with the word of truth.

When we came to study #3 we talked about: You're part of the establishment. God didn't leave us here alone. He gave us each other to function together as living stones in a building.

And this morning we talked about: Submitting to authority. And once a person learns that submitting to authority involves being a servant—if you're in the place of leadership—you then solve the whole problem with submission. It is not a problem in the world when somebody in the partnership becomes a servant. You no longer have a conflict with regard to authority. And if you want real happiness in your life, and real joy, then focus on servanthood and what you can do to glorify God. That'll solve your problems with authority.

And that brings us today then, after all of these and I have made my decision: I submit myself to the will of my Father and I follow wherever He leads. I'm willing to go where He wants me to go.

That's basically, in capsule form, Isaiah chapter 6. Isaiah comes into the temple and he sees the Lord "high and lifted up." Then what, after he sees the Lord "high and lifted up," he is cleansed of his sin. And then he says "Here am I Lord, send me." In other words, I'm ready to go. I'm ready to do what You want. You lead me where You choose.

Now pick up with me at verse 18. And with those thoughts in mind, my major concern is that we learn to follow Him.

Verse 18.

v. 18 Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are kind and gentle, but also to those who are harsh (unjust).

Now I don't know how many times I've heard this. Especially from ladies who say "You know, I'd be submissive to my husband if he'd just be nice to me." It's like, I've got an excuse for not being submissive because my husband is not the spiritual leader. Or I'd be submissive to my boss in authority if he would only give me a break. I've heard that for a long time and then I read this verse. And you know, there is absolutely no excuse in the disposition of authority that allows you the prerogative for not submitting.

Now there are some exceptions in scripture for submission. When that submission involves sin. When that submission involves doing something against your own conviction, then we're in the realm of the condition. But never in disposition of the one who has the authority.

He says here: "be submissive to your masters with all respect." And then he adds to that: "not [NEGATIVELY] only to those who are kind and gentle, but also to those who are harsh (unjust)."

It is my obligation and responsibility to be submissive in all respects. There are not conditions upon my submission. And secondly, I am to be one who is submitting not worrying about the mentality, the disposition, the demands of the authority that is over me.

God loves a cheerful submitter. God loves a cheerful giver. He loves a person who delights and finds freedom in submitting to the authority that is over him.

Verse 19.

v. 19 For this is approved, if through a spiritual awareness of God, he is enduring pain while suffering unjustly.

Now you can't believe that! That the Word of God would say that it is "approved" to God you're being unjustly treated and you're suffering in the midst of it, and you're enduring it with a "spiritual awareness" that God's in control of the circumstances so you are in the midst of this pain and you're enduring it and "suffering unjustly." That's a hard verse.

But that's not any different from saying "Take up your cross and follow me."

Now maybe you're there today. Maybe you're suffering unjustly and you would like to eat the guy's lunch that's involved in your suffering. And that's going to get you absolutely nowhere. It's only going to give you ulcers and it's hurting your life.

Why let things eat you up emotionally on the inside and let somebody else's conduct affect your happiness and your joy. Release yourself from that.

You see, it's approved to God that you and I, in the midst of this, would be "enduring pain [even while we're] suffering unjustly."

That word "approved" reminds me of 2 Timothy 2:15.

2 Timothy 2:15

Study to show yourself approved unto God ...

How can you do that? By going on and suffering in it and leaving it in the hands of God.

You know, in years of ministry there have been experiences of suffering unjustly. But I have never found, in the over 30 years of ministry, that God has not been able to handle those who become enemies. Of those who are really out to hurt you, God always has a way, when you just sit back and turn loose of it, of really making somebody have his hide nailed to the wall eventually.

It's a serious matter but you and I've got to come to the point where we are free from that. And we don't try to take vengeance into our own hands—Romans 12. We allow God to do it. It's "approved" to Him that we would act this way.

Now when it comes to the whole realm of authority, there are actually three things we've seen.

Why do I submit to authority? It's for the Lord's sake and I would never deny him any prerogative.

Secondly, we have learned that it is His will that we submit. It's "approved," it's His will and now the biggest one of all—it's "approved." This is the way God designed life for happiness. So I follow this basic principle:

"if through a spiritual awareness of God" I become a victim of selfishness, I'm being used—I'm being hurt—I would love to make the record straight, I'm told to submit.

I can hear that sigh. Oh, God. There's got to be a better way. It's there.

Why? You see, because we've been hurt and the pain is very real. And the normal reaction is to lash out. But why does he say this? It's because every single thing is known about you. You're precious to Him. Every hair on your head is numbered. Your days are numbered, your hours are numbered. God knows all about the people around you. And you don't have to take matters into your own hands. You can pray about it, you can verbalize it to God and be honest with Him—and I'll tell you something—He will take care of the situation.

And you'll be so much more blessed because you'll be free from

all this emotional upheaval, and all this crisis that you have to go through because you back off.

How many times have you quoted those two verses in Proverbs 3:5 and 6?

Proverbs 3:5, 6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart [WHAT?] and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him [WHAT?] and he'll direct your path.

We don't like that! The little part in there: "lean not unto your own understanding." Because we've got it figured out how this person's going to really pay the freight for what happened to you.

And our Father's saying: "Just a minute there." You see, the person that we've got to follow is Jesus Christ. And you know how He surrounded His hours on the cross? The very first thing that happened while they were splitting His flesh with the nails is: "Father, forgive them. They don't know what they're doing."

And the last thing He ever said was: "Father, into Your hands I commend my spirit."

He forgives the people that are doing it to Him and He commends His own spirit into the hands of the Father as He dies.

He's willing to trust God in the situation. And that's what you and I have to do when we're in situations where authority has been used and we've been manipulated by it.

I found this little poem. It was written by a teenager. It just grabbed me when I was thinking on this particular subject because so many of us suffer unjustly. If the stories were told of the people in this room today, there are many of you that really, really hurt. Maybe it's hurt from your own flesh and blood sitting next to you. Maybe it's hurt from an employer or whatever. But you're scarred, you're in pain today. And to hear this is hard. But this is the Word of God and I've got to be faithful to proclaim it.

Listen to this. This little piece was written by Jerry Anderson of Huntington, Tennessee recently. He was only in high school.

Ha, ha, ha, they laughed. He's at it again, the silly fool. Come see the show, come one and all, watch the village idiot racing toward a fall. Out in the meadow the fool ran round, leaping and jumping and flapping his arms, trying to gain speed so as to get off the ground. Please don't laugh, said a little girl, he means no harm, he is trying to fly. He's insane, came the haughty reply. The villagers laughed till the sun was low. They were still laughing when the sunset came. Tears filled their eyes, they had been laughing so. Then suddenly the laughter stopped. Men gasped, women fainted, the little girl was crying, for out there over the meadow, the fool was no

longer running—he was flying.
(source unknown)

You see many, many times God can move into impossible situations when you're looking at an idiot and He can vindicate His own. That young teenager caught a truth that we need to learn.

We're in God's hands. We're protected by His power and He's not going to let His precious possession go beyond what He's trying to teach in the development of Christian character and making us more Christlike.

So it's "approved" to Him when we're in the midst of this because inside of that brokenness, there comes the beauty of Jesus Christ.

Verse 20.

v. 20 For what credit is it, if when you are sinning and if you are enduring being beaten? But if when you are doing good and suffering for it and this you are enduring, this is commendable in the sight of God.

He says, "What's the big deal if you're having a real rough time and you deserve it?"

The big deal, as far as God is concerned and commendation to Him, is when you don't deserve it and you're hanging in there and keep going. You're enduring! You're developing those

qualities of character that make you Christlike.

I got so tickled. One Sunday I was preaching along this line in 2 Corinthians at one of the churches. This young lady who's facing horrendous crisis in her life and marriage and family. She's going down the stairs. She says "The only thing I don't like about that message is that I've got all the character I can stand right now." And I know you've said that too. You just don't know how you can take any more.

Now, what have you learned so far?

Well we've learned that our submission is for the Lord's sake. We have learned that's His will. We have learned that it's approved. And now we're building a fourth word on it, it's "commendable."

And when we suffer wrong in things we don't deserve, it is "approved," it's "commendable" to God.

Dr. Edman was a marvelous, marvelous president of Wheaton College for many years. Dearest thing. I would love to die like he died. He had a heart attack while he was preaching about the kingdom of God and the throne room of the King and he collapsed on the platform and went home to the throne room of the King. What a way to go.

The guy left behind a rich treasure in a book called *The Disciplines of Life*. This is what he says. His little poem is called "If":

If you can keep your head when all about you
 Are losing theirs and blaming it on you;
 If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
 But make allowance for their doubting too;
 If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
 Or, being lied about, don't deal in lies,
 Or, being hated, don't give way to hating,
 And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise;
 If you can dream—and not make dreams your master;
 If you can think—and not make thoughts your aim;
 If you can meet with triumph and disaster
 And treat those two imposters just the same;
 If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
 Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
 Or watch the things you gave your life to broken,
 And stoop and build 'em up with wornout tools;
 If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
 Or walk with kings—nor lose the common touch;
 If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you;
 If all men count with you, but none too much;
 If you can fill the unforgiving minute
 With sixty seconds' worth of distance run—
 Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
 And—what is more—you'll be a Man, my son!
 (poem actually by Rudyard Kipling)

That's what he's saying. It's out of all that. The quality, the beauty of Jesus Christ shines forth.

Look at it into the next verse.

These verses are rich.

v. 21 For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you a model to imitate in order that you might follow in His footprints.

Why am I one who endures? Because I've been called to this.

Back in chapter 1 verse 15, we were called to be holy.

In chapter 2 verse 9, we were called out of darkness into His light.

And here we have been called to suffer.

Now that's not popular preaching, is it? But you know, there are many verses in the Word of God that talks about the believer's suffering.

In Philippians 1:29 Paul tells us:

Philippians 1:29

For unto you it is given on the behalf of Christ not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake.

Hebrews 5:8

Though he were a son, yet learned he obedience by the

things which he suffered.

Psalm 119:67 & 71

Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now have I kept thy word. It is good for me that I have been afflicted that I might learn thy statutes.

Hebrews 12:5 and 6 says the very same thing.

Hebrews 1:5, 6

Yes, to keep from growing weary and faith-hearted, just think of the example set by him who has endured so great opposition aimed at him by sinful men. You have not yet, as you have struggled against sin, resisted to the point of pouring out your blood. And you have forgotten the encouragement which is addressed to you as sons, My son, refrain from thinking lightly of the discipline the Lord inflicts and giving up when you are corrected by Him, for he disciplines everyone he loves and chastises every son whom he heartily receives. You must submit to discipline. God is dealing with you as his sons, for who is the son that his father never disciplines?

Follow the Coach. Pay attention to what He says. You are to follow in His steps.

Now the last verses in this study today are verses that tell you the definition of that.

What does it mean to follow in His steps?

There are FIVE THINGS that are outlined here in these remaining verses that tell us what we're doing, as far as following our model.

Number one, let's read verse 22 and then I'll give you the first two there and the last three in the next verses.

v. 22 He committed no sin, nothing false was found in His mouth.

1. "He committed no sin"

Now you say, we're already sinful. That's right. But we can become more and more sensitive to sin and die to it in our lives and that's what God expects.

2 Corinthians 5:21

For God took the sinless Christ and poured into Him our sin and in exchange he poured God's goodness into us.

Hebrews 4:15

We have not a high priest who cannot be touched with the feelings of our infirmities but in all points, tempted like as we are yet without sin.

“He committed no sin.”

2. In this verse—“nothing false was found in His mouth.”

In the crucible he was honest. The words He spoke were of truth. To bear a false witness would be to tell a lie and it would break the law. He’s not guilty.

Verse 23.

v. 23 When He was being reviled, He was reviling not in return; and who while suffering, was not threatening, but was committing himself to the one who is judging righteously.

Aren’t you glad that verse is there? Now that explains why it’s approved, why it’s commendable by the Father to suffer unjustly. Because Jesus did exactly the same thing, and that was the will of the Father.

You and I, if we’re going to be made like Him, this is the way we’re going to respond to the conflicts with authority and the difficulties that come into our lives as a result of the failures of others and the selfishness that’s caused us to be used.

Now look at those closely for just a minute.

The third thing we see, about our model is that:

3. “When He was being reviled, He was reviling not in return”

Remember when Philip met the Ethiopian eunuch down in Acts 8, down on the Gaza strip? And when he came up alongside his chariot he was reading in Isaiah 53. And this is what it says. This is what he was reading.

Isaiah 53:7

As a sheep was led to the slaughter or as a lamb before a shearer is dumb, so he opens not his mouth. In humiliation justice was denied for him.

And when you come over into the gospels, what do you find? Jesus wasn't the same as the rest of them. He spoke very few words through all of that trial. And they were not words of defense. And when ultimately He came to that time to die, the two guys dying with Him were screaming and cursing and carrying on. But Jesus was hanging there in silence and only speaking words that related to people around Him and to His Father.

He didn't open His mouth when He died for us. He went forth in silence. We too must watch what we say while we're hurting in the crucible. Watch your tongue.

Many times when you're angry, you will give a speech that you will most regret the words that come from the mouth at that time.

Now look at the fourth thing:

4. “who while suffering, was not threatening, but was committing himself to the one who is judging righteously.”

There it is. Instead of threatening these people, instead of yelling at them and telling them what they're going to do, when this happened, what did He do? He committed Himself to the Father who is judging properly.

He committed the whole matter into the hands of the Father.

Now see the NEGATIVE and a POSITIVE there?

He “while suffering” is “not threatening” [that's the NEGATIVE] “but” [POSITIVELY] he was “committing himself to the one who is judging righteously.”

And that's exactly what He did while He hung there on the cross in the words that He spoke.

Now the fifth and final one is in verse 24.

v. 24 Who himself carried our sins to the cross in His body, in order that we having died to sins, might live to righteousness; by His wound you have been healed.

What's the fifth thing?

5. “[He] carried our sins to the cross in His own body.”

God expects from us to bear the sins and the hurts of others and to be willing to trust God to handle things and that there might be victory.

“I have been crucified with Christ”—Galatians 2:20 says—“yet not I, but Christ lives in me.”

It's by His wounds that I've been healed. That again comes from Isaiah 53.

Isaiah 53:3-5

Surely he hath born our griefs and carried our sorrows, yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God and afflicted, but he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace was upon him.

Do you think, for just a minute, that it's tough for Peter to talk about Calvary?

Are there some things in your life that are really tough to talk about? Maybe it's the death of a mate? Maybe it's a divorce? Maybe it's something where you were really used and you hurt? And it still brings tears to your eyes when you start talking about it. That loss causes you to really hurt deep inside. And it comes up right now when we're talking about it.

Do you think Peter had any feelings? You see, the Cross was the greatest fiasco the man ever faced.

He made these bold remarks, “They’ll never get to you! They’ve got to come through us before they’ll get you!”

And he denied three times, at the prelude of the Cross, that he ever knew Christ.

And when he walked away from that trial: “I’ve blown it! He trusted me to be the leader! To organize the troupes! To stand behind Him and I didn’t do it!”

He failed.

Isn’t it neat how, in his failure, he now understands the wisdom of God. Jesus had to die on the Cross.

And that for Peter, for a time, it was a failure but now he sees the wisdom in God and that Christ needed to die as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Oh the wisdom of God. Take that hurt that brings tears to your eyes and He’ll say “Oh, I can make something precious out of it. I can make it beautiful if you’ll just trust Me.”

And for him, oh, what a devastating effect until he finally understood the Cross of Calvary.

And on the other side he can preach and he can write with

power about the resurrection of Jesus Christ and that He is a living Lord.

Verse 25.

v. 25 For you were as sheep going astray, but now have been turned back to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

Do you think he knew that? Oh, those hours.

Like a sheep that went out of the pasture when he was needed.

Isaiah 53:6

All we like sheep have gone astray. We have turned everyone to his own way, and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

The purpose of redemption was that He died for our sins that we might live in righteousness.

The price of redemption is “by His wounds we’ve been healed.” And the provision for redemption now, we “have been turned back to the Shepherd and Guardian of our souls.”

You think that word “turned back” means something to him? Oh boy it does.

What's the difference between Judas Iscariot and Peter?

Judas' selling wasn't any bigger than Peter's betrayal, was it?

Then what's the difference? One turned back and the other didn't.

Don't keep going if you're on the wrong track. Don't keep pushing on down the freeway of life. Have you ever been like that? Are you like a typical husband who, when he misses a turn-off he's going to go until literally it freezes over to demonstrate to his wife that he didn't make a mistake and he knew where he was going? When the sign still says its 650 miles in the other direction! I won't back! I may go in a big circle but I'll never turn back! So she'll never know.

That's hard isn't it? That just ate your lunch didn't it? You've got to stop going the way you're going and you've got to turn around and come back.

Oh listen to Peter, would you? He returned and what a blessing was his.

Now there are a lot of things that go on in our lives that we don't understand.

We see through a glass darkly but then we're going to see face to face. We know in part but then we're going to know even as we're known. Just trust Him, will you?—while you're in the midst of it.

I remember reading Bishop Lattimer. Let me just share this with you before I give you the lessons.

On a May day in 1555, Bishop Hugh Lattimer, soon to burn at the stake for his anti-papal reformed convictions, composed an open letter. And this is what he said before he died at the stake:

“To all unfeigned lovers of God’s truth, die once we must. How and where we know not. Here is not our home, let us therefore, accordingly consider things, having always before our eyes that heavenly Jerusalem and the way thereto in persecution. And let us consider all the dear friends of God, how they have gone after the example of our Savior, Jesus Christ, whose footsteps let us also follow, even to the gallows if God’s will be so, not doubting, but as he rose again the third day, even so shall we do at the time appointed of God, that is, when the trump shall blow and the angels shall shout, and the Son of Man shall appear.” Later that year when the dignity of Oxford Town was demoted to that of a persecutor’s den, they fed both Lattimer and his friend Ridley to the devouring flames. But not until Lattimer astonishingly composed said to his colleague in martyrdom, “Be of good comfort, Master Ridley, and play the man. We shall this day light such a candle by God’s grace in England as I trust shall never be put out.”

That’s what we’re talking about.

That's part of the train you're in friend, if you name the name of Christ. Just walk in His steps. And if you aren't, turn around and get on track.

Here are four observations I'd like to make.

Lesson #1: There are no excuses for not submitting.

There are no excuses for not submitting.

Lesson #2: It is approved by God when we suffer unjustly and do not retaliate.

It is approved by God when we suffer unjustly and do not retaliate.

Lesson #3: God can and will take care of situations where you have been unjustly treated.

God can and will take care of situations where you have been unjustly treated.

And my last lesson.

Lesson #4: We've been called to follow in His footsteps.

Yes. Follow Me and I'll make you fishers of men.

If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.

I was 12-years-old. It was a Christian camp. I came to know Jesus in a little Baptist church in Burns, Oregon when I was 6. But the impelling call of God was upon my life that night. And the congregation began to sing “Where He leads me, I will follow.”

Have you ever heard the words of that great old hymn?

Page 159 in your hymnal.

Maybe God would speak to you in this very same way.

I can hear my Savior calling,
I can hear my Savior calling,
I can hear my Savior calling,
Take thy cross and follow Me.

And He says He'll go through the garden,
He'll go with him through judgment,
He will give him grace and glory,
He'll go with him all the way.

But the hymn we sing tonight is on page 334 because this far better fits the thoughts of our message—“Day By Day.” Let's join together and sing.

“Day By Day”

Day by day, and with each passing moment,
Strength I find to meet my trials here;
Trusting in my Father's wise bestowment,
I've no cause for worry or for fear.
He, whose heart is kind beyond all measure,
Gives unto each day what He deems best,
Lovingly its part of pain and pleasure,
Mingling toil with peace and rest.

Every day the Lord Himself is near me,
With a special mercy for each hour;
All my cares He fain would bear and cheer me,
He whose name is Counsellor and Pow'r.
The protection of His child and treasure
Is a charge that on Himself He laid;
“As thy days, thy strength shall be in measure,”
This the pledge to me He made.

Help me then, in every tribulation,
So to trust Thy promises, O Lord,
That I lose not faith's sweet consolation,
Offered me within Thy holy Word.
Help me, Lord, when toil and trouble meeting,
E'er to take, as from a father's hand,
One by one, the days, the moments fleeting,
Till I reach the promised land.

Father, tonight we pray that if those who need to turn around, may they have the courage, the boldness, the humility, the brokenness, to admit that. To allow the Spirit of God to take that cracked pot of a life and to throw it afresh upon the Master's wheel and mold it again into a vessel that's seems good in His sight. In Your house there are vessels of wood and clay. Those which are used for dishonorable use and there are those of gold and silver, which are for honorable use. Father God, as You strip out of our lives those things that keep us from usefulness, may we gladly release them to Your authority and may we see You forge a ministry and make something beautiful out of a life that is finally been broken like Peter's. And may we rejoice that we have followed in the footprints of our Savior and He has led us all the way. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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PATTERN NUMBER FIVE – FOLLOW THE COACH – 1 PETER **2:18-25**

KEY VERSE 2:21

v.18 Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are kind and gentle, but also to those who are harsh (unjust).

v.19 For this is approved, if through a spiritual awareness of God, he is enduring pain while suffering unjustly.

v.20 For what credit is it, if when you are sinning and if you are enduring being beaten? But if when you are doing good and suffering for it and this you are enduring, this is commendable in the sight of God.

v.21 For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you a model to imitate in order that you might follow in His footprints.

v.22 He committed no sin, nothing false was found in His mouth.

v.23 When He was being reviled, He was reviling not in return; and who while suffering, was not threatening, but was committing himself to the one who is judging righteously.

v.24 Who himself carried our sins to the cross in His body, in order that we having died to sins, might live to righteousness; by His wound you have been healed.

v.25 For you were as sheep going astray, but now have been turned back to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

NOTES

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 1 Peter 2:18-25 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. Describe the two kinds of masters in verse 18 and what the servant's attitude is supposed to be.

3. What does it mean to suffer unjustly in verse 19?

4. What is commendable in the sight of God in verse 20?

5. Who is our model to imitate in verse 21?

6. What five things are said about Jesus in verses 22, 23 & 24?

7. How are we described in verse 25?

8. Who is the “Shepherd and Guardian of our souls” in verse 25?

9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: There are no excuses for not submitting.

LESSON #2: It is approved by God when we suffer unjustly and do not retaliate.

LESSON #3: God can and will take care of situations where you have been unjustly treated.

LESSON #4: We are called to follow in His footprints.