

**Date:** 02.08.2020

**Time:** 6pm

**Service taken by:** Rev Gavino Fioretti

**Psalm:** Psalm 89:19-25

**Reading:** 1 Peter 2:22-25

**Outline: Christ's exemplary sufferings**

a) Introduction

1. Jesus' undeserved sufferings

2. Jesus' response to his sufferings

3. Jesus' objective for his sufferings

### **Christ's exemplary sufferings**

- **Introduction**

The apostle Peter has moved to a more practical part of the letter. He emphasised at the beginning of the letter who we have become in Christ. He is now reminding believers what that means in practice. If we have tasted that God is good, that must be shown in how we live. The newness of life must be seen.

Jesus is used as an example. Peter spoke about how Jesus' example of unjust suffering should guide us. We are given a pattern to follow. As soon as Peter mentions Jesus, he stops there – he has to remind the believers about Christ. The suffering of Christ brings salvation, this is the gospel. He speaks of this not because it is convenient, but because of the love that Peter has for Christ. It's not just right for him to speak of Christ, it's pleasant for him to do this. Jesus is precious to him. As soon as possible, he has to speak well of and to honour Christ. The duty of the preacher is to show Christ to sinners, but love for Him should be the motivation. It should be a natural love for Him that means we keep talking about Him. We can't make ourselves love Jesus, only the Holy Spirit can fill our heart with love for Christ. In your suffering, follow the example of Christ.

#### **1) Jesus' undeserved sufferings**

Jesus' suffering was undeserved. Some of us might be called to suffer unjustly, but we are still full of sin. Jesus was perfect and did nothing wrong, but suffered willingly.

**His sinless actions:** Jesus had no experience of sin. He never sinned. False accusations had to be made against Jesus to condemn Him as He had committed no sin. Jesus' sinlessness is the foundation of our justification. We needed righteousness outside of us to be made righteous. Jesus

had to live that righteousness for us. His sinless life is imputed to us. God sees us in Christ who was sinless. It was impossible for Christ to sin as He was God. Jesus was completely free from sin.

**His sinless words:** Jesus was completely sinless in His words. We know that keeping our tongue in check is difficult – we speak too quickly – we hurt and offend people – we hurt ourselves and put ourselves in danger. Jesus was sinless in His words – no deceit, lying, hurting – only truth came from His mouth. Jesus never failed in what He said. This is also imputed to us – what a comfort to know that we stand on Christ’s sinlessness. It’s not about what we say, but what He says that matters. His sinlessness is the grounds of our justification.

## **2) Jesus’ response to his sufferings**

**He did not revile:** vs 23. Peter is speaking to people who are reviled and abused by unfair masters in the workplace. By nature, when someone abuses us, we are tempted to respond in an offensive way. Jesus did not abuse people who abused Him – the opposite is true.

**He did not threaten:** He did not threaten, which we’re tempted to do if someone hurts us. He prayed for those abusing Him and threatening Him. He was interceding for those hurting Him before God.

**He continued to trust:** Jesus continued entrusting Himself to Him who judges justly. Faith enabled Him to respond with trust. He trusted in God. Jesus didn’t seek revenge or threaten or abuse His enemies as the Father had promised that this would be dealt with. Jesus committed His spirit to the Father on the cross. Committing ourselves to God’s care enables us to continue through suffering and to keep trusting even when it’s difficult. God will do what is right and judge justly. Our response can be faith in God through suffering.

## **3) Jesus’ objective for his sufferings**

The sufferings of Christ had a purpose.

**Bearing our sins:** He suffered for our sins. Jesus was satisfying the demands of the law by taking the punishment for our sins. Our sins had to be punished. Jesus bore our sins. We’re not carrying that burden anymore. Christ carried our burden for us, so we don’t carry them anymore. We see ourselves as sinners so often, but that’s not how God sees us. He sees us in Christ. He bore our sins so we don’t have to. He suffered because He was bearing our sins.

**Taking our place:** Jesus took our place, He took our sins in His body. He carried our sins and took our sins upon Himself. Jesus was acting as a substitute, taking the sufferings that I deserved to suffer. Jesus went through this so that we might live unto righteousness.

**Healing our wounds:** There is healing today because God can grant healing, but healing is not guaranteed in this life. The healing promised is in the new Heaven and earth. We long for a body healed from the damage sin brings on our bodies.

**Saving our souls:** Jesus is the One who is the Shepherd of our souls. We were like sheep who had gone astray. We were lost, but Jesus found us. Through His suffering, He saved our souls from sin and death. This salvation is so that we might live to righteousness, to live a life that reveals the excellencies of God. The only way for us to die to sin is through Jesus. Sanctification is the work of God, not of man. The ground of the work of sanctification is the work of Christ. Because He died, sin has no more power over us. We're able to live to righteousness. We're free to do what was impossible before. We will never suffer like Jesus – He experienced the justice of God for what He hadn't done. He did this for the good of our souls. We will experience injustice, but this offers an opportunity to become more like Jesus is God's strength.