

BIG IDEA: We’ll suffer when we’re faithfully following JC, but we’re to respond w/ joy.

1) INTRO

- Didn’t wake up this morning, “I wanna be told I’m gonna suffer!” ...that life’s gonna be hard
 - We avoid suffering – naturally & not in our gospel message
 - Yet we’re here
- June 29, yesterday, the Day of the Christian Martyr
 - Falls on day traditionally believed Apostle Paul executed
 - Day of observance of those who gave their lives for JC
- Been waking through 1 Peter
 - Seen very clear examples of how to live faithfully for JC
 - Keeping our eyes on JC, living holy lives, submission in public and at home...and all while living as elect exiles
- Today we’re faced w/ the topic of suffering
 - Many areas/avenues that we suffer in life
 - Physically, mentally, emotionally
 - The suffering here is being insulted for JC (v14)
- BIG IDEA

PRAY

2) EXPECT SUFFERING (v12)

- Nero and Rome in AD 64 – next 200 yrs
- As God’s beloved/dear ones, we’re commanded not to be surprised by suffering
 - Not to be shocked by it
- When we’re mocked/ridiculed/pers for our faith in JC, we shouldn’t be surprised
 - We’re following JC who said as much – John 15:18 (hates me)
- When we’re being faithful to JC, suffering will come
 - B/c when our allegiance is to him, we’ll be walking in step w/ JC, not the world
- We live in a world that doesn’t walk in step w/ JC

- Political candidates, sexuality, valuing life, stifled free speech & religious expression/practice
- Entertainment – movies, tv, music (since ‘50s in music)
- Idolatry – pursuit of wealth, sports, the arts
- We shouldn’t be surprised that we’re different
 - b/c we’re in-step w/ JC, following him
- So, we shouldn’t be surprised/thinking that something strange is happening to us
 - “happening” – carries the sense in GRK of “falling by chance”
 - Pers we endure doesn’t happen accidentally...God allows it for our testing
 - It’s not that God’s absent, it’s that he’s purifying/testing
 - 1 Pet 1:6-7 - testing
 - To test the perseverance/steadfastness of our faith
 - Those walking w/ JC endure to the end/will be saved
- This advance warning prepares us for suffering
 - We’ll be prepared in our hearts and minds
 - Our world won’t be rocked/faitn not threatened
- BIG IDEA

3) REJOICE IN OUR SUFFERING (vv13-14)

- We’re given a most unusual command for how to respond in our suffering
 - Instead of being shocked, we’re to...rejoice!..at the privilege
 - We don’t do this naturally, do we?
 - No matter the pain, suffering – physical, emotional, etc
 - Dentist, dr – excitement
- But, spiritually, we’re to rejoice that we’re sharing in JC’s sufferings
 - When we share in JC’s sufferings it’s b/c we’re suffering for doing right...like JC did
 - Suffering that comes b/c of our allegiance to JC
 - That we’re living faithfully to him
 - Not willing give in, not willing to compromise the truth of Bible
 - This is possible

- When we're grounded in truth of Word, when we prepare our hearts/mind, when we focus on eternal life in JC, when we have the HS
- Brother Yun
- Schreiner – "how believers respond to suff is an indication of whether we belong to God at all"
 - Good reminder for us, isn't it?
 - Quick to complain/whine, grumble, angry
 - This is a good check for our hearts
 - How do we respond
- We rejoice in our suffering b/c of our future joy – v13 "glory...reveal"
 - We rejoice in our salvation (1:6-7)
 - God has the end in sight here...we suff for a little while
 - The opposition is verbal/insulted for not following the way of the world (4:4)
 - When people trash us for following JC, we keep our eyes focused on the end – eternity with JC
 - This is our blessing...Matt 5:11
 - Much better to be insulted by people, but blessed by God
 - When we suffer for following JC, we have HS resting on us
 - God himself with us – now, carrying us in our suff
 - W/ us forever as he brings us into complete, perfect fellowship w/ him in the glory of heaven

4) REFLECT ON CAUSE OF OUR SUFFERING (vv15-18)

- Diff between punishment we deserve vs suffering for JC
- Some punishment we deserve
 - "Murder & stealing" are mentioned here
 - They're sins AND also criminal acts
 - These blatant sins are listed for rhetorical reasons so we can differentiate between suffering for JC vs suffering that's a result of sin
 - Suff from the punishment of breaking the law isn't the suffering talked about in this passage – whether it's murder, stealing, paying for a speeding ticket, etc
 - An "evildoer" is also mentioned here too

- Refers to doing wrong in general and isn't limited to criminal acts
- Last sin mentioned here is a "meddler"
 - This GRK word isn't mentioned anywhere else in the NT, LXX, or other GRK lit from the same time period
 - The breakdown of the word leads translators to translate it "meddler, mischief-maker, busybody, & prier into other men's matters"
 - The grammar here suggests that Peter is pointing to something less serious than murder or stealing
 - So we're encouraged to not annoy others...to not be a pest that no one wants to be around
 - That's a self-inflicted suffering that's not a suff for following JC
- Focus in this text is in suff as a follower of JC...v16 brings out
- "Christian" – isn't what early believers called themselves
 - But, they grew to embrace it as it means "follower of JC"
- As followers of JC/Christians we're not to be ashamed
 - We're to remain steadfast/persevere and not deny JC even in the midst of pers
 - It's an honor to suff for JC
- We're to glorify God – draw attention to him by proclaiming & praising the name of JC publicly
- And, we see in vv17-18 that it's far better & more important to endure suff here at the hands of people than it is to endure the eternal sufferings of unbelievers
 - Better to be suffer the ridicule of people now than to suffer the punishment of God in hell forever
 - Our suff for JC now is a kid of temporal judgment proving who will endure to the end & escape God's eschat wrath
- So, we have joy b/c our suffering is temporary
 - Knowing the end is soon helps us to endure
 - No-novocaine filling
 - Joy b/c suff is temporary

5) TRUST IN SOV GOD WHILE SUFFERING (v19)

- This final v points out to us that suff is part of God's will

- When we suffer for our faith in JC, it's part of God's plan
- To test us
- But, we can entrust our souls to sov God
 - "Entrust" is banking term meaning to deposit for safekeeping
 - And, we can entrust our souls to God, the faithful Creator
 - He's the sov one who created all & sustains all
 - Creator of the world is sov over it
 - And, he's not gonna abandon us in time of need
 - We know that when we love God all things work together for good, for those who're called according to his purpose
 - We can have steadfast joy knowing we're in his hands...no matter what we walk through

6) CLOSING

- Perpetua
- BIG IDEA
- Are you ridiculed/insulted b/c you're faithfully following JC?
 - It's evidence of our faith when we are
- Theme in Peter is to "Stand Firm in the True Grace of God"