

1 Peter Week 7 3:18-22 "Patience takes Grace"

Community Group Questions

1. What causes you to be impatient?
2. What time of suffering have you had to patiently endure?
3. Do you have lost people in your life that you find it difficult to be patient with?
4. Does your standing in Jesus help you to have patience in your current situation?

Do you have patience? Well(long pause)

*Today we are going to learn the grace of patience that Jesus had from 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:18-22.*

**Jesus had patience in suffering. Vrs 18** The purpose of Jesus' Sacrifice does not get any clearer then in this verse. Lets look at the GOSPEL (go in depth on this verse)

Could Jesus have died a quicker and more painless death for our sins? YES and NO. Yes because God the Father could have planned it a different way, but NO in regards to fulfillment of Prophecy -Jesus wanted to communicate the ugliness of sin so we understand the magnitude of our offenses toward Him.

*Isaiah 53:5 "But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed"*

-Jesus set and example of patient suffering.

*Isaiah 53:7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.*

Are you suffering? Are you having a difficult time being patient in suffering? Maybe it is a health issue, maybe it is a job issue, maybe it is school, maybe it is your marriage, maybe it is your children, maybe it is your parents or another relationship you have.

-What you are dealing with is causing you to suffer and because of that you lack patience

**How did Jesus display patience while He suffered?**

**-Prayer-** Gethsemane...Do you stop for a time of prayer when you lack patience and are suffering?

**-Gave Himself to the will of the Father...**Do you accept that the suffering is in the will of God and your patient response is what God desires?

**-Did not complain...**like a sheep...Do you complain your way through suffering because you are not patient?

**-Did not seek revenge...**Does your lack of patience cause you to seek revenge?

**-Cared for others** (son behold mother John 19) When you are suffering is your mind preoccupied and you can't think of others?

**-Kept telling people about the Kingdom of God...**Criminal on the cross. Does your mission as a Christian get off track because of your lack of patience while suffering?

If we follow Jesus' example when we are suffering we have an amazing opportunity to give Jesus the glory.

### **Jesus has patience with lost people. Vrs 19-20**

This is a highly debated portion of Scripture. *Martin Luther said that this was probably the most obscure passage in Scripture.*

4 Views on verse 19 and I will tell you what I lean toward but I am not dogmatic about it.

-Jesus went to hell in between His death and resurrection and preached there. (Problem...Into your hands and today you will be with me in paradise...there are no second chances)

-Jesus proclaimed victory to the demonic world that He conquered death. Some merit to this view because Satan and His demons rebelled before man did and God could have been proving Himself and His plan. (not sold on this)

-Because Peter speaks of Noah, Christ proclamation is somehow to the people that were wiped out by the flood and the spirit of Christ first preached to them through Noah.

-Finally which is a minority view but I tend to like the best. Jesus preaching to the “spirits in prison” is, Him proclaiming the good news between His resurrection and ascension and then the text moves toward the example of Noah as the preacher and the patience God had on the people while the ark was being built.

RC Sproul suggests this view due to verse 18 in which it states “put to death and made alive” then it says “He proclaimed to the spirits in prison because they formally disobeyed” So it seems reasonable because elsewhere in the Scripture people are referred to as spirits and people in Jesus day disobeyed the gospel and Jesus after He rose from the dead most likely preached to those people again.

The point I would like to make is that Jesus has patience with lost people even the very people that persecuted and put Him to death.

How does Jesus deal in patience with lost people? And how can we?

-Ample time to repent(change mind)

We need to patiently pray for and tell others about Jesus, use every opportunity and don't give up.

-Clear directives based on their problems, what was standing in the way of them trusting...Rich young ruler, women caught in adultery, Pharisees hypocrisy

-Spoke the truth in love...We can't shrink back on the truth

-Seek after the lost...lost sheep 99

-Righteous anger when appropriate, money changers in the temple  
Sometimes it is appropriate to show displeasure or anger over sin  
(security guard in Boston)

**Jesus has patience because of His standing. Vrs 21-22**

Jesus has patience because of His standing and we can have patience because of our standing in Jesus. First lets deal with Jesus' standing **vrs 22**. So when Jesus was here on earth he knew the end result, the position He would hold.

I want to let you know that you can have patience because of your standing in Christ.

**Verse 21** speaks of our standing in regards our commitment to Jesus. So this issue of baptism comes up and it may seem confusing because at first read it seems like baptism saves a person.

Listen to what the Bible commentator Roger M. Raymer said *Baptism represents a complete break with one's past life. As the Flood wiped away the old sinful world, so baptism pictures one's break from his old sinful life and his entrance into new life in Christ. Peter now exhorted them to have the courage to commit themselves to a course of action by taking a public stand for Christ through baptism. The act of public baptism would "save" them from the temptation to sacrifice their good consciences in order to avoid persecution.*

Or in other words "saves" them from immaturity. Immature Christians let the fear of persecution dictate how committed they are. Committed Christians make commitments to the Lord and with the help of the Lord do their best to follow through with them. The result is maturity.

So a way that we as Christians can battle our lack of patience is to pursue maturity...Which brings us to this issue of our Christian maturity...

let me tell you three major **reasons for immaturity**.

**-Ignorance-** this is my favorite because it does not make me angry. You don't get mad a baby for crying and you don't get mad at Christians that are ignorant of what God says or desires. You assist these people in way to become more mature in the Lord. Baptism for

example...no infants baptized in the Bible, not necessary for salvation, it is an important step of faith. Public commitment

**-Pride-**people that think they are mature Christians because they have an area or two in their lives in check. This is a trap for those of us that have been Christians for a long time. We tend to feel that we are mature because we know a lot but our actions don't follow suit. I Corinthians 8:1 says knowledge can "puff us up", it does not say don't seek after knowledge its warning us not to let our knowledge go to our head, but use the knowledge to further your commitment to the Lord.

When it comes to spiritual maturity, pride can manifest itself in another way...by thinking what you do and your ministry is the most important. This is immature because it does not consider the entire Body of Christ and the ministry each is called to. We are all called to the Great Commission but how that is worked out in our lives can be different for each person.

**-Stubbornness-**Sometimes we are immature because we are stubborn, "I don't need to grow, I don't need help, I am fine the way I am, I have no struggles" Mature people are not stubborn.

The idea here is to break free from these immature attitudes so that you can pursue maturity and therefore become more patient in life.

*Margaret Thatcher the British politician who served as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom said "I am extraordinarily patient, provided I get my own way in the end."*

Did you know because of your standing in Jesus things will go your way in the end? What I mean is just as Jesus was able to be patient because the end result was glory...our end result is glory as well

Let me tell you how it is going to work out for us as Christians...Jesus delivers us from this sinful world and we spend eternity with Him and one another in Glory so no matter what comes our way in this world we can have the *grace of patience* because of our standing in Jesus.