

- The sufferings of Jesus

1. Four things Jesus did not do

- He committed no sin

- No deceit was found on His lips

- He did not return insults with insults

- He did not threaten His enemies

2. The one positive thing Jesus did

- He trusted God who judges righteously

3. Jesus went further still in love

- He took away the threat of punishment by bearing the sins Himself

- While being insulted

Peter is still writing about the need for house-servants to be cooperative with their masters, but his line of thought has led him to dwell upon the sufferings of Jesus. Peter says: *'He committed no sin; no deceit was found on his lips'*¹. *When he was insulted, he did not insult the other person; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he trusted him who judges justly'*².

1. Peter tells us **four things that Jesus did not do**: 'He committed no sin ... no deceit ... He did not revile . . . He did not threaten'.

Suffering did not lead Jesus into sin. Sometimes suffering can lead us into sin. We may get resentful at the treatment we are getting and so we cast off all restraint and cease to resist temptation. In the story of Job after the account of his very great suffering, we are told 'Despite all this Job did not sin'¹. This was a mark of Jesus' godliness also. His suffering did not lead Him into carelessness about sin.

'No deceit was found on His lips'. When someone is causing us suffering we may be tempted to lie or deceive in order to escape the suffering. Abraham is an example¹. To avoid a threat to his life he lied. Peter did the same in a situation where he too was likely to suffer². But the sufferings of Jesus never led Him into deceit.

'When he was insulted, He did not insult the other person'. It is easy when someone insults us to get angry and begin to do the very thing they are doing. At the time of His trial, and indeed throughout His life, Jesus received many insults, but never did He return insult for insult.

He did not threaten His enemies. He could have done. It would only be a few days before Jesus would be raised from the dead. He could have said, 'You wait! In three days I'll be back from the dead...!' But when He was raised from the dead He did not even bother to go to see His enemies. He could have said 'One day I'll be the judge and you will be on trial; you will be sent to hell!' But Jesus did none of these things. He did not use threats like this at all.

2. Peter tells us **the one positive thing Jesus did**: 'He trusted him who judges justly'. Suffering tests **faith**. We have to go on believing, no matter what happens to us. We remember that God is a judge and eventually He will judge righteously. We leave our cause in His hands. If we are in the wrong He will vindicate the other person; if we are ourselves being ill-treated we shall receive justice – but God must do it and it comes only in His time.

3. Next Peter tells us **how Jesus went further still in His love**. He not only did not take revenge for what we had done; He actually took away the threat of punishment by bearing the sins Himself! Not only did He endure ill-treatment and insult, He actually was being insulted in the very process of helping these sinners to salvation! Peter emphasizes the word 'Himself'. *'He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree...'*¹. While people were sinning against Him, He Himself was taking their sins up on to the cross and carrying them in His own body. What amazing love. While sinners were treating Him badly, He Himself was in the very act of providing salvation for them. It is 'an example' so that we 'might follow in His footsteps'. Even as people insult us we are

1 2:22

2 2:23

1 Job 1:22

1 see Genesis 12:11-13
2 Matthew 26:60-74

1 2:24

to be willing to be helpful to them.

• *Jesus was willing to be reckoned a sinner*

Jesus was willing to be reckoned a sinner. When Jesus died upon the cross, God the Father put our sins upon Him. He was reckoned to be a sinner by men and women, but He was reckoned to be a sinner by God as well! People reckoned He was a sinner – because of misunderstanding. God reckoned He was a sinner – by transferring our sins to His account.

• *Hanging on a tree – a sign of God’s judgement*

Hanging on a tree was a sign of God’s judgement. It was the most disgraceful way to die known in the ancient world. Verses in the Bible mention how hateful it is: Deuteronomy 21:23; Joshua 8:29; 10:28; 2 Samuel 4:12; 17:23; 18:10 Acts 10:39. Galatians 3:13.

• *Jesus – our substitute*

Peter emphasizes the substitutionary nature of the cross. Jesus was ‘substituted’ in my place; He bore the anger of God against sin. In the Old Testament the worshipper who brought a sacrifice brought the animal to die instead of himself. He laid his hands upon the animal. It was a way of saying ‘This is a sacrifice **for me**. This animal is about to shed its blood **for me**’.

• *Christ – our “Passover”*

Substitution was also obvious in the story of the Passover. The Passover lamb died instead of the sinners who were in danger when God’s judgement was coming into the land of Egypt. On the cross, ‘Christ our Passover’ was sacrificed for us^{□1}.

• *A curse instead of me*

Jesus became a curse instead of me^{□1}; He died in my place^{□2}, ‘the righteous for the unrighteous’^{□3}. He was offered to bear the sins of many^{□4}.

• *The fulfilment of Isaiah 53:11*

Christ carried the sins of the entire world up on to the cross and there He bore them in His own body. God the Father executed His judgement against my sins – in Jesus. Isaiah 53:11 predicted a Servant of God who would ‘bear their iniquities’. He died ‘for us’^{□1}; ‘for all’^{□2}. He gave His life a ransom ‘in the place of many’^{□3}. He was ‘a ransom for all people’^{□4}.

• *To experience salvation – take Jesus by faith*

In the midst of great ill-treatment, Jesus was doing everything that had to be done, to rescue the very people who were treating Him so badly. Jesus is our sin-bearer. So what is needed for us to experience salvation? We simply take Jesus by faith as our sin-bearer.

□1 1 Corinthians 7-8

□1 2 Corinthians 5:20; Galatians 3:13

□2 1 Peter 2:24

□3 1 Peter 3:18

□4 Hebrews 9:28

□1 Romans 5:8

□2 2 Corinthians 5:14

□3 Mark 10:45

□4 1 Timothy 2:6



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