



An Unrivaled Injustice

1 Peter 2:21-25

Study Guide

1. The word “for” which begins 1 Peter 2:21 is larger in importance than it may appear. Read verses 18-20. To whom has Peter been speaking? Notice the kind of suffering, if handled properly, “finds favor with God.” There are all kinds of conditions that may be called suffering, but suffering unjustly has a very high price tag on it. How does the word “for” connect what Peter has just been saying to slaves and what he says in verses 21-25?
2. Next Peter says, “You have been called.” What is this calling? Is it conversion? If so, how is it connected with the theme of verses 19 to 20? This brings us to another important question. Why is the Christian called to suffer? Peter answers this question in verses 21 to 25. When you became a Christian what was some of the first instruction you received? Were you taught in a very specific way in the first months of your new life in Christ about what the Christian life would mean? What are some of the things you would tell a new convert as you assist in establishing them in the basics of Christianity and the nature of the Christian life?
3. Since Christ is set before the believer as the supreme example of suffering unjustly, how can you see this in the life of Christ? What can we learn from Jesus’ experience of suffering unjustly? Identify some of the ways Jesus perfectly obeyed the Father as He endured rejection and hardship.
4. Notice how all four verses in this section (vv. 22-25) depend upon Isaiah 53. Write down the ways Jesus responded to unjust suffering in verses 22 to 24. What are some ways in which humans naturally tend to respond to unjust suffering? One important issue to be considered is how we are to deal with anger when we are being treated unfairly. What are some of the things people are commonly told to do with their anger? How do these differ with the example of Jesus (v. 23b)?
5. In verse 24 we are taken to the very heart of the atonement of Jesus Christ. What is the connection between the substitutionary atonement of Jesus Christ and His example for us in enduring unjust suffering? Due to the extremely important nature of this question, keep in mind that all ethical systems rest upon assumptions about human nature and truth. What does the ethics of Christianity rest upon? What does the ethics of secular humanism rest upon?
6. Can you think of a situation where you have been treated unfairly? How did you handle it? Would you have done anything differently knowing what you know now about the example of Christ in 1 Peter 2:21-25? Pray and ask God for grace for the next encounter with the crucible of unfair treatment.