When You Suffer

Ken Chapman · 1 Peter 1:3–7

INTRODUCTION

- We all suffer. You may be suffering this morning. Suffering takes different paths, does it not?
- How will we react as men and women of faith when we suffer?
- In fact, this epistle was written because they were suffering, and it was written to help them through that suffering.

1 Remember That It Won't Last

1 Peter 1:1; 1 Peter 1:6; 1 Peter 5:10

- First of all, please remember that it won't last. It's just temporary.
- Pilgrims. Your translation may say strangers or sojourners. However, that word is translated, it means people who are just passing through.
- Suffering can be made tolerable, can be made bearable if we remember it's just temporary.
- As Christians, we have the benefit that we've read the last chapter of the book. We know how this ends. And it ends well for us.

2 You're Sharing in Christ Jesus

1 Peter 2:20–24

- Remember that when you're suffering, especially if that suffering is the result of persecution, that you're sharing in Christ Jesus. You are put in noble company.
- But when you do good and suffer for it, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God.
- Because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example that we should follow in his steps.
- So remember when you're suffering, you're in good company.

3 Leading to Something That Will Be Worth It All

1 Peter 1:3–5

- Not only is it temporary, but it's leading to something that will be worth it all.
- Has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.
- Remember that the suffering that you experience as a Christian in this life is going to be worth it.
- We see the end result, and so we're willing to go through sometimes what might be otherwise unthinkable experiences to get to that end goal.

4 The Suffering May Actually Be Beneficial

1 Peter 1:6–7; 1 Peter 5:10

- That the suffering may actually be beneficial.

- Faith isn't made in a crisis, it's revealed in a crisis.
- Not only does it test your faith to see if it's real, but Peter also says it's going to make your faith real. It's going to strengthen you.
- Suffering may be the only thing that equips us to help someone else.
- Another benefit of suffering is that it reminds us that this world is not our home.
- Every bit of suffering should make us long for home. Long for a better place.

5 God's Protection Is Always There

1 Peter 1:4–5; 1 Peter 3:13–14

- Lastly, Peter says to remember that God's protection is always there. God is with you.
- He's saying you are kept. That word kept is not strong enough. In the original language, it means a military garrison.
- God is protecting you. Not from the suffering, but through the suffering.
- But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed.
- In his providential love, his hand is upon you.

THE CHALLENGE

Realizing that suffering is going to be a part of your life, why not go through that suffering with God in your life? Why not go through it with hope instead of hopelessness?

MY NOTES