

“THAT YE SHOULD FOLLOW HIS STEPS”, #1

INTRODUCTION

The story is told about a man who left home on a journey, treading through the fresh snow. He As he left his footprints in the snow, he heard his son behind him, who said, “Look dad, I'm following in your footprints.” This made the father realize how important in life that he always think about **where** and **how** he walked because a little lad was following him. Our lesson today is entitled “*THAT YE SHOULD FOLLOW HIS STEPS.*” These words come from a passage in 1 Pet. 2:21, where Peter wrote concerning Jesus, “*For even hereunto were ye called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps.*” Now let's consider **how** and **why** Christ suffered, and **how** we should follow His example in suffering as Christians.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, let's consider the SOURCE OF JESUS' SUFFERING.

A. Jesus predicted that He would suffer at the hands of **men**. Matt. 16:21; 17:21

B. Jesus' suffering originated with **Satan**. Heb. 2:18

1. Satan motivated Judas to betray Jesus, bringing on His death. Matt. 26:14-16; John 13:1-2, 21-27
2. Roman soldiers were used by the Jews to inflict pain in behalf of the Jews.
3. The Israelites as a people crucified Jesus. Acts 2:22-23, 36

II. 2nd, let's consider WHY JESUS SUFFERED.

A. There are several specific reasons stated in the scripture.

1. 1st, Jesus suffered to sanctify us. Heb. 13:12
2. 2nd, Jesus suffered to put away sin. Heb. 9:26
3. 3rd, Jesus suffered to bring salvation. 2 Cor. 1:6
4. 4th, Jesus suffered to bring men to God. 1 Pet. 3:18
5. 5th, Jesus suffered to give us a perfect example to follow. 1 Pet. 2:21

B. It was necessary that Jesus suffer before He could enter into His glory, and reign as king of kings and Lord of Lords. Luke 24:26; Heb. 12:2

III. 3rd, let's consider HOW WE SHARE IN CHRIST'S SUFFERING.

A. When Christians suffer **for righteousness' sake**, they are SHARING in His suffering. Acts 9:15-16; 2 Tim. 3:12

1. First century Christians had to suffer at the hands of the Jewish leaders who were trying to destroy the church, and then by the Romans before and during the time of the fall of Jerusalem in A.D. 70. 1 Pet. 4:12-17
2. In our time, we are threatened with suffering from the terrorist world, and should be willing to suffer for Christ's sake if necessary. Matt. 10:28

B. When Christians suffer, they should remember that no matter how long it may seem, it will eventually come to an end, and is nothing compared to the glory that will follow in eternity. Rom. 8:17-18; 2 Cor. 4:17-18; Rev. 2:10

CONCLUSION

I. Heaven will someday be realized, and will be worth every moment of suffering that we may be called on to endure in this life. Matt. 5:10-12

II. If you are not a Christian, or have been untrue to God, won't you make things right with God, right now?

“THAT YE SHOULD FOLLOW HIS STEPS”, #2

INTRODUCTION

In a previous lesson, we introduced the idea of our following in the steps of Jesus. Peter said we are called to suffering, as Jesus has suffered, leaving us an example. We noted how and why Jesus suffered, and how and for how long we may be called upon to follow Jesus in this life. Today, we want to make some additional points wherein we are to **follow** Christ, by imitating some of the very things He did.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, we should follow His steps in the Jordan of BAPTISM.

A. In preparation for the coming kingdom, John baptized penitent Israelites in the river of Jordan, “for the remission of sins.” Matt. 3:1-6

1. Among those baptized in Jordan, was the Lord Himself. Matt. 3:13-17

a. Jesus was **not** baptized “for the remission of sins”, for He had no sins.

b. His baptism was an exception to the purpose, but His was to fulfill all righteousness. Cf Psa. 119:172

c. In being baptized, Jesus pleased God, who also acknowledged Jesus as His beloved Son.

2. John also baptized in other places where there was water. John 3:23

B. Several things take place when **we** are immersed in water.

1. First, we are **obeying** a commandment of God. Acts 10:48

2. Second, we **enter** into a fellowship with Christ. Rom. 6:3

3. Third, we **become** children of God. Gal. 3:26-27

4. Fourth, we **receive** the forgiveness of sins. Acts 2A:38; 22:16

II. 2nd, we should follow Jesus' steps in the wilderness of TEMPTATION.

A. Immediately upon baptism, Jesus was led into the wilderness to face temptation by the devil. Matt. 4:1

1. Jesus needed to be tempted so as to fully comprehend our feelings when we are tempted. Heb. 2:17-18; 4:15; 1 Pet. 2:21-23

2. Jesus overcame temptation by referring to what is “written” in the scripture, the **word** of God. Matt. 4:2-11

B. Jesus said His followers would **also** be tempted and persecuted. Matt. 5:10-12

1. Temptation helps us to be humble, realizing that Satan had tempted Jesus also.

2. Temptation helps us to develop a dependence on God's word. 1 John 3:8-12

3. Temptation help us build character and strength. Jas. 2:2-4

4. Temptation also helps us prepare for the final reward. Jas. 1:12

III. 3rd, we should follow Jesus in the house of WORSHIP.

A. Following the temptation, Jesus went into the synagogue for a period of worship to God.

1. To Satan, Jesus spoke of the importance of worship. Luke 4:8

2. After temptation, he immediately went to the synagogue of worship, and had occasion to teach and lead the Israelites in worship. Luke 4:13-30

3. Jesus continued to worship on all the sabbath days (plural). v. 31

B. If we follow in Jesus' steps, we will **also** strive to be **regular worshippers of God.**

Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1-2; Heb. 10:25

1. Some Christians have the bad habit of doing other things than to worship God.

a. Some allow their **work habits** to hinder their love for worship.

b. Some allow their **pleasure habits** to interfere with their worship.

c. Some allow their **closed Bible** to keep them *wanting* to worship God.

2. Years ago, Paul Harvey told the story of a Christian man who never missed an opportunity to worship God. One Wednesday night, he was absent, and knowing of his faithfulness to **always** be present when the doors are open,

went the next day to check on him. They found him pinned under the tractor in his field. They were able to get him removed from under the tractor. His faithfulness to the Lord saved his life physically.

IV. 4th, we should follow Jesus on the highway of SERVICE.

A. Jesus came to serve, to inspire His followers to do the same. Matt. 20:27-28;
John 13:1-17 (Analyze and emphasize major points for service)

B. As followers in the steps of Jesus, we need to **serve** as well as **worship**.

Matt. 4:10; Gal. 5:13

CONCLUSION

I. So, as followers of Jesus, having submitted to **baptism**, let us continue to walk in His steps of **temptation, worship, and service**.

II. If you need to begin your following of Jesus, or to return if you have departed from following Him, we urge you to respond to Him, as we stand together and sing.