

I Peter: Lesson #80 – Offering Up Spiritual Sacrifices

Notes for Parents to Study With Their Children

For Sunday, Mar. 8th

Read I Pet. 2:4 – 3:12 (a simplified explanation of the text will be supplied at the end of these notes).

Memory Verse: I Pet. 2:5 “You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices...”

Jesus Was Rejected by People, But Chosen By God

- When Jesus came to the earth, most people did not follow Him. Many of the Jews did not follow Him. The Jewish leaders rejected Jesus as the Christ. They did not believe He was the Son of God. Instead they had Jesus crucified. These people did not think of Jesus as God’s chosen “stone”, instead they stumbled over Him because they didn’t believe in Him.
- But Jesus was the One that God had chosen. God chose Him to be King. God chose Him to be our High Priest. In the Old Testament book of Psalms, David wrote about what Jesus would be like. He said if the Lord, “The Stone which the builders rejected, that Stone has become Head of the corner.” (Ps. 118:22) Others may have rejected Jesus, but He would still be the Head over everything, the most important stone of all.
- Jesus was the most important stone in building God’s spiritual house.

Christians are Special People

- **They are God’s Spiritual House.** In the Old Testament, God had His people build a physical house, a temple, in Solomon’s time, but now we are a spiritual house. Christians are the church, the temple of God.
- **They are a Holy Priesthood.** Every Christian is a priest before God. Each must offer sacrifices to God. Not animal sacrifices, of course, but sacrifices of living right and doing good and worshiping the Lord.
- **They are a Chosen People.** Just like God chose Jesus to be the King and High Priest, God has chosen us to be His people.
- **They are a Holy Nation.** Christians are part of a special kingdom, Christ’s Kingdom. He is our King. We are different from everyone else because Christ is our King.
- **They are God’s Special Possession.** God helps His people. He has a special love for His own people.
- **They have a special job.** The work of a Christians is to show the world all the wonderful things about God. They are to show how great God is and how much He has done for us.

How God’s Special People Should Live

- To be God’s special people, God’s chosen people, we cannot live any old way. God expects us to be different from other people of the world. He wants us to live His good ways so that the world could see how great a God He is.
- We should also show great respect for God.

- We must not live our lives wanting sinful things.
- We should obey the people in authority over our government.
- Servants should work hard and obey their masters.
- Wives should obey their husbands. They should try to have a good attitude in their hearts -- a gentle and peaceful spirit. They should work at that a lot more than worrying about what clothes they are going to wear or how they can fix their hair.
- Husbands have to be very considerate of their wives. They should not be selfish, but try to be understanding of what their wives need.
- Every Christian should show a good attitude towards their fellow Christians: They should love them like family members. They should feel for each other when they go through hard times. They should be united. They should be tender-hearted, kind and forgiving. No Christian should ever believe they are the most important than others. They should treat others as just as important as themselves. If someone else treats them mean, they should not act mean back. They shouldn't act angry or harsh or be insulting to others.
- Christians should remember that "The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous. His ears listen to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

Jesus Had to Suffer For Us

- Sometimes it is hard to be a Christian. Sometimes Christians suffer. Sometimes Christians suffer because they follow Christ.
- But we should be willing to go through difficult things for Jesus, because He was willing to go through some very hard things for us. Think about all the pain He went through on the cross. Think about all the terrible things people said to Him.
- Jesus never acted mean, even though people treated Him mean. He just kept trusting God. We need to be the same way. We need to keep trusting and obeying God.

Simplified Explanation of the Text

Jesus, the Living Stone

I Pet. 2:4 We come to Jesus as the Stone that is both alive and who imparts life. This Stone was rejected by men, but was the Stone chosen and greatly valued by God.

Christians Are Also Living Stones of a Spiritual Temple

5 You are also living stones built on a spiritual house. You are a holy priesthood offering up spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Jesus Was a Stone Rejected by Men, But Chosen By God

6 All this is the reason the Scripture contained this prophecy God spoke: "Take notice, I lay in Zion a chosen stone, a corner stone of great value. He who believes in Him will not be ashamed." (Isa. 28:16)

7 So the value of this Stone is seen by you who believe. But what about those who don't believe? The Scripture said of them, "The stone that was rejected by the builders has become the chief cornerstone."

8 The Scripture also tells what Christ is to those who don't believe in Him: "A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense." (Isa. 8:14) They stumble because they disobey the Word, for all who disobey Him are set for a fall.

Christians Are God's Chosen People

9 But you who are obedient to Christ are the people God has chosen to be His people (Deut. 7:6), a royal priesthood (Ex. 19:6), a holy nation set apart for God (Ex. 19:6), His special possession (Deut. 7:6). He has made you to be this so that you can spread the message about the excellence of the One who called you out of darkness and into His amazing light.

10 All of you who have been chosen by God came from all different races and nations, so at one time you couldn't have been called "a people" at all; but now you are "the people of God." At one time you had not obtained mercy, but now you have obtained mercy.

Live Before the World in a Commendable Way

11 Loved ones, I plead with you to live like foreigners and strangers and stay away from fleshly desires which are at war against the soul.

12 Live your lives in an admirable and commendable way among the Gentiles. They may, at first, falsely claim that you do evil things; but when the day comes that they look more carefully at the good works you are doing, they will glorify God.

13-14 Even though all the different authorities of the land were made by men, be willing to put yourself under their authority because this is what the Lord wants. Submit whether it's a king as the highest authority, or to a governor, or those sent to punish evildoers and commend those who act right.

15 Live this way because this is what God wants. He wants you to do good so that silence the things foolish people say out of ignorance.

16 Live your life as free people, and yet you shouldn't hold freedom like its some kind of covering to hide wicked actions. Instead use your freedom to be servants of God.

17 Recognize the value of everyone. Love all those who are our brothers and sisters. Have a fearful reverence for God. Show honor to the king.

Servants

18 Servants, you must put yourself under the authority of your master in a fearful reverence. This applies, not just to masters that are good and gentle, but also to those who are unfair and crooked.

19 For this finds favor when a person, because they want to have a good conscience toward God, bears up under sorrow, suffering in a way that wasn't deserved.

20 But if you get beaten or treated badly because you sinned, it won't matter how patiently you endure it. That won't gain you any good reputation with God. However, if you do good and suffer, this will be looked at favorably by God.

Christ Suffered For Us

21-23 It's for that very reason you've been called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example so that we would follow in His footprints: He committed no sin and He never spoke any misleading words. When He was so rudely and harshly insulted,

He didn't say those kind of things back at them. When people caused Him suffering, He never threatened them. Jesus just put Himself in the hands of the righteous Judge.
24-25 There on that piece of wood, He Himself carried our sins in His own body so that we sin would die and righteousness could live. As the Scripture said, "by His stripes we are healed, for we were like sheep always going astray" (Isa. 53:5-6). But now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Wives

3:1-2 In the same way we've talked about putting yourself under the authority of another, wives you must be willing to place yourselves under your own husband's authority. Do this so that, even if a husband was not obedient to the Word, he could be won to Christ without words as he watches the pure and respectful way his wife conducts herself.

3 The way you arrange and adorn yourself for beauty shouldn't just be an outward thing – fixing your hair a certain way, wearing gold jewelry, or putting on certain kinds of clothing.

4 Instead, work on beautifying that person you are in your heart, the part of you that other people don't see, the part that does not wear out and die. Adorn that part of you with something that will not grow old and wear out -- a controlled, gentle spirit and also a tranquil, peaceful spirit. In God's eyes, that kind of adornment is very valuable.

5 Women of other times who lived for God and put their hope and trust in Him, adorned themselves this way, putting themselves under their own husbands.

6 Just like Sarah gave respectful attention to what Abraham said and obeyed him, calling him "lord". (Gen. 18:12). You have become Sarah's children if you do what is good without being frightened by any fearful thing.

Husbands

7 In a similar way, husbands must dwell together with their wives according to knowledge. Give honor to the wife, recognizing her value. Appreciate the fact that her physical being is weaker, delicate, feminine. Also remember to honor her as someone who will along with you inherit the grace of life. Live with your wife in such a way that your prayers won't be cut off.

Summing Up: God's Chosen People Must Live in a Commendable Way

8 So as we close out this discussion, let's think about the main attitudes all of us should have:

One minded – united in our thinking.

Sympathetic – a closeness and sharing of what others are going through

Love for each other as brethren – treating each other not as strangers but as family.

Acting in an endearing and friendly way to each other.

Tender-hearted – feeling kindness, goodness, and compassion for others inside of you.

This includes a willingness to forgive others (Eph. 4:32).

[Different original texts of the Bible have two different Greek words for the last attitude.]

Courteous (as in the KJV) – thinking of others in a friendly way

Humble thinking - not exalting ourselves, but lowering our selves before God and others.

9 If someone has done something bad to you, don't pay them back by acting bad toward them. If they speak angrily, harsh, or insultingly to you, don't respond back to them that way. Instead respond by speaking in a good way toward them. Realize that you were called into this way of behaving so that you could inherit a blessing.

10-12 For the Scripture teaches, "The person that wants to love life and see good days should hold their tongue back from speaking bad things and their lips from saying deceptive things. Let them turn away from evil, and do good. Seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous. His ears listen to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil." (Ps. 34:12-15).