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| SERIES: | 60 & 2 Peter - Rock Solid - 2013 |
| MESSAGE: | A Reason For Every "Ouch!" |
| SPEAKER: | Skip Heitzig |
| SCRIPTURE: | 1 Peter 3:18-22 |

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Perhaps the most common word in our language is the tiny word, "Ouch!" Every day, it's repeatedly expressed in variant forms around the world. It's a word that conveys pain and suffering. Peter's audience knew all about suffering, but they didn't always know how it could actually be used for anything good. Christ's own sufferings provide the best example of both the power and usefulness of suffering.

DETAILED NOTES

- I. Introduction
 - A. Pain is a messenger that demands all of our attention
 - B. If you're in pain, you couldn't care less about reasons for suffering; you're more concerned about the resources while you're suffering
 - C. God's truth won't make you immune to problems and pain, but it can protect you from the bullets of doubt as to the purpose and reason for suffering
 - D. 1 Peter 3:18-22 is hard to teach because:
 1. It is difficult to understand
 2. It promises suffering
 - E. Four things mark the path of Jesus' suffering: crucifixion, resurrection, proclamation, exaltation
- II. Jesus' Crucifixion Shows Purpose (v. 18)
 - A. If ever there was anyone who suffered for doing nothing wrong and everything right, it was Jesus Christ
 1. He died an excruciatingly painful death by crucifixion
 - a. *Excruciating* literally means from the cross
 - b. Persians invented crucifixion around 300 B.C.; the Romans perfected it
 2. He sweated drops of blood, endured six illegal trials, was wrongly accused, was beaten by a flagellum, then crucified on Golgotha
 - B. Most of us will never experience anything near to what Jesus experienced; Hebrews 12:4
 - C. The benefit behind His suffering was "that He might bring us to God" (v. 18)
 1. The veil in the temple was torn in two (Matthew 27:51, Mark 15:38)
 2. Signifies that Jesus opened the way to God
 - D. The very worst thing that did happen became the very best thing that could happen
 - E. "Suppose you're the devil. You're the enemy of God, and you want to kill Him but you cannot. However, He has this ridiculous weakness of creating and loving human beings whom you can get at. Aha! Now you've got hostages. So you simply come down into

the world, corrupt humankind, and drag some of them to hell. When God sends prophets to enlighten them, you kill the prophets. Then God does the most foolish thing of all; He sends His own Son and He plays by the rules of the world. You say to yourself, 'I can't believe He's that stupid. Love has addled His brains. All I have to do is inspire some of my agents—Herod, Pilate, Caiaphas, the Roman soldiers—and get Him crucified.' And that is what you do. So there He hangs on the cross, forsaken by man and seemingly forsaken by God, bleeding, and crying 'My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?' What do you feel now as the devil? You feel triumph and vindication. But, of course, you couldn't be more wrong. This is His supreme triumph and your supreme defeat. He struck His heel into your mouth and you bit it and that blood destroyed you" —Peter Kreeft

III. Jesus' Resurrection Shows Permanence (vv. 18-19)

- A. Jesus' crucifixion led to His resurrection, which makes Him alive permanently; Hebrews 7:25
- B. "It is finished" (John 19:30)—refers to our redemption, but also His suffering
- C. The resurrection changes the playing field; it ensures eternal life
- D. Romans 8:18
 - 1. If you're a believer, this earth is the closest you'll ever get to hell; it's all uphill from here
 - 2. If you're an unbeliever, this earth is the closest you'll ever get to heaven; it'll get a lot worse
- E. Heaven is so unlike our earthly experience that the Bible often has to describe it in negatives; Revelation 21:4

IV. Jesus' Proclamation Shows Planning (vv. 19-21)

- A. When Peter wrote these words, he had no idea they would become some of the most difficult words in the New Testament; he probably had a simpler meaning behind them
- B. "A wonderful text is this, and a more obscure passage perhaps than any other in the New Testament, so that I do not know for a certainty just what Peter means" —Martin Luther
- C. "But made alive by the Spirit"
 - 1. If Peter here wanted to say Jesus physically resurrected, he would have said, "Jesus died in the flesh and was made alive in the flesh"
 - 2. There is no capitalization and there are no definite articles in Greek
 - 3. Best translation: "being put to death in the flesh but made alive *in spirit*"
 - 4. Jesus physically died and lay in the tomb for three days, but His spirit was very much alive
- D. "By whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison"
 - 1. Jesus had a proclamation to make
 - 2. He did not go to hell and preach the gospel to lost people
 - 3. He spoke to spirits, meaning either angels or demons
 - 4. While His body was in the tomb, He went to the spirit realm
 - 5. Acts 2:27, 31—Jesus went into Hades, the abode of the spirits (not hell)
- E. "Who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah..."
 - 1. These spirits had something to do with the antediluvian era
 - 2. Genesis 6:2, 4
- F. Jesus' proclamation was possibly an announcement of His victory

1. I Corinthians 2:8
 2. He was victorious over Satan's plan
 3. God has a greater purpose for our suffering
- V. Jesus' Exaltation Shows Power (v. 22)
- A. The right hand is the place of prestige, power, and authority
 - B. Philippians 2:9-11
 - C. Jesus did suffer a painful death, but after His crucifixion came proclamation, resurrection, and exaltation
- VI. Closing
- A. Jesus' suffering eventually led to glory, and so will yours
 - B. We are an embattled minority in a hostile world, just like Noah and the eight—but God will keep you; your future is secure
 - C. Nicene Creed
 1. Written in Nicaea around 325 A.D.
 2. All 318 delegates, except for about 12, had suffered physical persecution for Christ
 3. They saw a reason for their *ouch!* and that what God has planned for us is not even worthy to be compared to our present suffering
 - D. What happened in the life of Christ happens for the follower of Christ; your suffering is all for a reason
 - E. The ultimate reason for Jesus' *ouch!* was you—Hebrews 12:2

Figures referenced: Peter Kreeft, Martin Luther

Cross references: Genesis 6:2, 4; Matthew 27:51; Mark 15:38; John 19:30; Acts 2:27, 31; Romans 8:18; I Corinthians 2:8; Philippians 2:9-11; I Peter 3:18-22; Hebrews 7:25; 12:2, 4; Revelation 21:4

Topic: Suffering

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