

1 Peter 2:21-24

Verse 21

To fully understand the context of what is being addressed in verses 21-25, attention must be given to the preceding verses. The preceding verses give an example of how a servant is to respond to his master in a way that pleases God even if they are suffering unjustly. The servant that bears up under sorrow when treated unjustly finds favor with God. There is no credit if you treat someone how they treat you as even sinners act in this manner (Luke 6:32-36). As believers, we are born again and we are to not be conformed to this world, but to be transformed by the renewing of our mind (Romans 12:1-2). Christians are to not follow the actions, responses, and behaviors of this world, because our citizenship is not of this world. One of the most difficult things for a non-believer to comprehend is how a person can be kind to those who are not kind to them. This goes against our fallen human nature and can only be sincerely accomplished by the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit which dwells in all believers. God desires that Christians endure suffering with patience even as that suffering comes upon us unjustly. Even though this seems difficult, we have an example that has been set before us to follow as One who did not lash out or sin while being treated unjustly but trusted Himself the Father. These verses are paralleled with Isaiah 53. That example is Jesus.

- *We have been called for salvation and for suffering.*
 - Bible verses about being sovereignly called for salvation
 - Romans 8:29-30 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; ³⁰and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.
 - 1 Corinthians 1:8-9 who will also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
 - 1 Corinthians 1:23-24 but we preach ^[a]Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you ^[a]from the beginning for salvation ^[b]through sanctification ^[a]by the Spirit and faith in the truth. ¹⁴It was for this He called you through our gospel, ^[d]that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - 2 Timothy 1:9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,
 - 1 Peter 1:15 but ^[a]like the Holy One who called you, ^[b]be holy yourselves also in all *your* behavior;
 - 1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
 - Jude 1:1 Jude, a bond-servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of ^[b]James, To those who are the called, beloved in God the Father, and kept for Jesus Christ:
 - Revelation 17:14 These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him *are the called and chosen and faithful.*"

Bible verses about being called to suffer as a Christian (servant is not above the master)

- **1 Peter 4:12-19** Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; ¹³ but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation. ¹⁴ If you are reviled ^[a] for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. ¹⁵ Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a ^[b]troublesome meddler; ¹⁶ but if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name. ¹⁷ For *it is* time for judgment to begin ^[c]with the household of God; and if *it begins* with us first, what *will be* the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸ And if it is with difficulty that the righteous is saved, ^[d]what will become of the godless man and the sinner? ¹⁹ Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.
- **Philippians 1:29** For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,
- **2 Timothy 3:12** Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.
- **Romans 8:18** For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.
- **John 15:18-20** "If the world hates you, ^[a]you know that it has hated Me before *it hated* you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also.
- **1 Thessalonians 3:1-3** Therefore when we could endure *it* no longer, we thought it best to be left behind at Athens alone, ² and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's fellow worker in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you as to your faith, ³ so that no one would be ^[a]disturbed by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we have been destined for this.
- **1 Peter 1:6-7** In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various ^[a]trials, ⁷ so that the ^[b]proof of your faith, *being* more precious than gold which ^[c]is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;
- **1 Peter 5:10** After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen *and* establish you.

The greatest example of suffering unjustly was Jesus and it pleased the Father (**Isaiah 53**)

- He suffered unjustly for His people. He was just, but treated unjustly for His people.
 - **1 Peter 3:18** For Christ also died for sins once for all, *the* just for *the* unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the ^[a]spirit;
 - **2 Corinthians 5:21** He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
- When we think we have been treated the most unjustly of anyone ever, we must look to Christ as the One who suffered the most and suffered the most unjustly. He is the example of how we are to respond when we suffer and are treated unjustly.

Verse 22

- Christ responded to being falsely accused, suffering unjustly, and being slandered without sin. He had no deceit in His mouth, not did He slander those who slandered and falsely accuse Him. He is living the perfect example of what Peter writes about in verse 18-20 in this chapter.
- If Jesus sins one time on earth including in how He responds to those treating Him unjustly, then there is no Heaven for any. His perfect and righteous requirement of the Law was fully met in Him and then imputed to His sheep by faith alone (sola fide) in justification.

Verse 23

- Jesus did not treat them as they were treating Him. He did not repay evil for evil, but rather He was repaying good for evil (Romans 12:17-21).
- He responded this way because He was entrusting Himself to the God who judges righteously.
- He was not enacting revenge or vengeance on those who were treating Him this way, but was rather trusting the One who judges righteously and vindicates perfectly.
- Revenge and vengeance have never been ours, nor will they ever belong to us. Revenge and vengeance are the Lord's and He will distribute them perfectly and righteously (Romans 12:19). When we take matters into our own hands, rather than trusting ourselves and our situations to God, we are stealing from Him what is His and implying that we can hand out vengeance and vindication better than God.
- When you are treated unjustly and when you suffer, instead of taking matters into your own hands and responding like the world, we are to respond like Christ and entrust ourselves to God who will vindicate perfectly (Luke 18:1-8). Do we trust Him?

Verse 24

Christ remained perfect in all His actions, so He would fulfill the perfect righteous requirement of the Law, which would be fulfilled in us (Romans 8:1-4).

- *He bore the sins of His people in His body on the cross so we could die to sin and live to righteousness.*
 - o **2 Corinthians 5:21** He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
 - o **Leviticus 16: 21-23** Then Aaron shall lay both of his hands on the head of the live goat, and confess over it all the iniquities of the sons of Israel and all their transgressions ^[a]in regard to all their sins; and he shall lay them on the head of the goat and send *it* away into the wilderness by the hand of a man who *stands* in readiness. ²²The goat shall bear on itself all their iniquities to a solitary land; and he shall release the goat in the wilderness. ²³“Then Aaron shall come into the tent of meeting and take off the linen garments which he put on when he went into the holy place, and shall leave them there.
 - o **Isaiah 53:11-12** As a result of the ^[a]anguish of His soul, He will see ^[a]*it and* be satisfied; By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, As He will bear their iniquities. Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, And He will divide the booty with the strong; Because He poured out ^[a]Himself to death, And was numbered with the transgressors; Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, And interceded for the transgressors.
 - o **Galatians 3:10-14** For as many as are of the works of ^[a]the Law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who does not abide by all things written in the book of the law, to perform them.” ¹¹ Now that no one is justified ^[b]by ^[c]the Law before God is evident; for, “^[d]The righteous

man shall live by faith.”¹² However, the Law is not of faith; on the contrary, “He who practices them shall live by them.”¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”—¹⁴ in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

By His wounds we are healed

- o **Isaiah 53:5** But He was pierced through for our transgressions,
He was crushed for our iniquities;
The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him,
And by His scourging we are healed.

The lashes that Jesus took on his body was punishment that He was taking in our place. The injuries from the whip and the lashings looked like stripes on His back and those stripes were the punishment He took in our place. It is by those stripes and His blood that we escape the punishment and penalty of sin.

*Every lash of the whip, every punch, every slap, every scourge, the crown of thorns, every bone, nails in the hands and feet, the crucifixion, and the wrath of God was what we deserved. However, Christ came to die in the place of His sheep. The Good Shepherd came to lay His life down for His sheep (**John 10:11**) and the unblemished blood of the Lamb as a result of His stripes and wounds, would be the spiritual healing for His elect.*