

1 peter 4

learning to think like Jesus

intro

- last two weeks finishing this book
- written to people whose worlds have been turned upside down
- last time we spoke we learned about the power of living for others

ch 4 - trouble ahead

love to be positive

- bible pretty realistic
- life dishes up trouble in two ways
- hurts
- tough times

1 Peter 4:1 (The Message) Since Jesus went through everything you're going through and more, learn to think like him

Key point

Being a follower of Jesus has three parts to it

1. Meeting and accepting him
2. choosing irrevocably to follow him - pre choose to obey everything
3. learning to think like him

Peter is saying to handle hard times - its best to think like Jesus

Jesus know how to handle hurt

Jesus know what its like to hurt

Jesus understands what it means to be hurt.

Seven physical wounds -- nail prints in his hands and feet, stripes on his back, spear pierced his side, crown of thorns on his head

But He also had hidden wounds.

- Those hurt even more. The wounds of betrayal, rejection, hatred
- those are the ones that so often render us numb or stumbling thru life

Peter says when you go through a hurt you need to have the same attitude that Jesus had, have the same way of thinking about it

quick look at how Jesus dealt with hurt

1. Learn the power of Forgiveness

*Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."
Luke 23:34 (NIV)*

Forgiveness is never deserved.

Then why should you forgive those people who have hurt you?

1. Because God's already forgiven you
2. You're going to need forgiveness in the future
3. You're never going to stop hurting until you learn to forgive.

"Watch out that no bitterness takes root among you, for as it springs up it causes deep trouble, hurting many in their spiritual lives." Heb 12:15 (LB)

Resentment always hurts you more than it does the other person

"You are only hurting yourself with your anger!" Job 18:4 (GN)

2. choose to shift your focus

1 Peter 4:2 (The Message) Then you'll be able to live out your days free to pursue what God wants instead of being tyrannized by what you want.

Your pain matters to Him.

- He feels it and wants to help you.
- You can stop rehearsing the pain because God is going to remember it for you.

"You (God) know how troubled I am; you have kept a record of my fears." Ps. 56:8 (GN)

When we focus on the wrongs done we only see them

- This requires a mental shift. It's a choice that you've got to make.
- We get stuck in our pain and we can't get on with the present or the future.
- By focus on what God wants you unstuck from the hurt & past

gratitude & grace come from the same root word

Glass half full?

- Perspective on life is not formed in a vacuum
- Perspective is formed by either gratitude or ungratefulness
 - Half full
 - half empty

Being thankful creates optimism

grace frees us not only from sin but from being pessimistic

- this is no self help gig
- thinking about your past can become a rut
- the way we view our past often shapes who we will become in the future

1Th. 5.18 Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

- When we do this the world begins to open to us in new a beautiful ways
- our past takes on different textures

We no longer feel as if we are owed - we feel like we have something to offer

- we begin to discover the mystery Jesus spoke of

Matt. 10.39 If your first concern is to look after yourself, you'll never find yourself. But if you forget about yourself and look to me, you'll find both yourself and me.

3. Hardest part of forgiving is moving forward

we have to live with hope

- when we don't we get into trouble
- with no sense of future we can only conclude tomorrow is a repeat of yesterday
- it takes no faith to live without a sense of the future
- sometimes pain stops use from wanting to think about the future but is that a good thing

"Put your heart right, reach out to God ... then face the world again, firm and courageous. Then all your troubles will fade from your memory, like floods that are past and remembered no more." Job 11:13-16 (GN)

When you focus on one thing it tends to cause you to forget something else

- when we stay in pain we are forced to use methods other than Gods to deals with it

1 Peter 4:3-5 (The Message) You've already put in your time in that God-ignorant way of life, partying night after night, a drunken and profligate life. Now it's time to be done with it for good.

There are three problems with the pain killers that the world offers.

1. They don't last.
2. They can become addicting.
3. They never solve the problem.

4. Don't walk alone

God never meant for you to have to solve your hurts on your own

1 Peter 4:8 (The Message) Most of all, love each other as if your life depended on it. Love makes up for practically anything.

1 Peter 4:8 (TNIV) Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

"Love covers" -- what does that mean?

There is enormous, tremendous, powerful healing power in love.

- Love is the antidote to fear.
- Love is the antidote to guilt.
- Love is the antidote to resentment.

When your life is filled with love it doesn't have room for these other things that eat you up on the inside.

"Two people are better than one... If one falls down, the other can help him up." Eccl. 4:9 (NCV)

"You should not stay away from your church meetings, (instead) meet together and encourage each other." Heb 10:25 (NCV)

How does mosaic express this?

- NO one human being can meet all the needs that why God has us in community
- small groups
- pastoral care

We are to help each other. Not just come and sit and hear a message and walk out. God means for you to be involved.

How do you deal with trouble

1 Peter 4:12-19 (The Message) 12-13 Friends, when life gets really difficult, don't jump to the conclusion that God isn't on the job. Instead, be glad that you are in the very thick of what Christ experienced. This is a spiritual refining process, with glory just around the corner.

14-16 If you're abused because of Christ, count yourself fortunate. It's the Spirit of God and his glory in you that brought you to the notice of others. If they're on you because you broke the law or disturbed the peace, that's a different matter. But if it's because you're a Christian, don't give it a second thought. Be proud of the distinguished status reflected in that name!

17-19 It's judgment time for God's own family. We're first in line. If it starts with us, think what it's going to be like for those who refuse God's Message!

If good people barely make it, What's in store for the bad?

So if you find life difficult because you're doing what God said, take it in stride. Trust him. He knows what he's doing, and he'll keep on doing it.

Three sources of trouble in life

We will like experience all three - sometime we are a mixture of all of them

Common troubles

- happens just because you are a human being, things go wrong.
- We live in a fallen world. Our bodies wear out.
- As a part of life we have suffering as human beings.

Self created trouble

- trouble that I cause myself by the choices, the dumb decisions that I make.
- If I get drunk and then have a hangover, that's self inflicted suffering.
- We bring a lot of suffering on ourselves. The Bible says, "A man reaps whatever he sows."

God trouble

- that's when you suffer for doing good.
- Jesus is the best example of this.
- Did He suffer because He did wrong or because He did right? He suffered because He did right.

How do we look at this hard part of life

1. Understand that this is part of life.

1 Peter 4:12 (The Message Friends, when life gets really difficult, don't jump to the conclusion that God isn't on the job.

"Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you." 1 Peter 4:12 (NIV)

Jesus was very realistic about this.

- Jesus was honest and He said you need to consider the consequences of commitment to Me

(Jesus) "No servant is greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also." John 15:20 (NIV)

there's a myth that says, if I have everything right in life then things are going to go smoothly.

- We forget that we're in a spiritual battle.

2. Learn to see the bigger picture

1 Peter 4:13 (The Message) Instead, be glad that you are in the very thick of what Christ experienced. This is a spiritual refining process, with glory just around the corner.

why be glad?

1. Suffering draws me closer to God.

"...these trials will make you partners with Christ in his suffering, and afterwards you will have the wonderful joy of sharing his glory." 1 Pet. 4:13b (LB)

- "partner". In Greek it is the word koinia, that's the word for fellowship
- Ask any war veteran. The suffering that they went through bonds them together.
- There's a difference between knowing about God and knowing God

2. It means that God can be seen in my life.

1 Peter 4:14-16 (The Message) If you're abused because of Christ, count yourself fortunate. It's the Spirit of God and his glory in you that brought you to the notice of others.

3. It means God trusts me.

"The apostles (were) full of joy that God considered them worthy to suffer disgrace for Jesus' name." Acts 5:41 (GN)

- consider this rough patch you are in
- maybe God is trusting you to go thru something
- We as a community have gone thru a tough patch - why God mad at us ro trusting us to learn and grow ready for the next bit?

3. Don't become your own worst enemy

1 Peter 4:15-16 (The Message) If they're on you because you broke the law or disturbed the peace, that's a different matter. But if it's because you're a Christian, don't give it a second thought. Be proud of the distinguished status reflected in that name!

I think we can often be so hard on ourselves for going thru a tough time that we actually make it harder

Maybe We're afraid of what other people will think of us

1. Realize that you don't need the approval of everybody in order to be happy in life
2. Be more concerned with what God thinks about you, than what other people think bout you.

4. Live for the line not the dot

"These troubles and sufferings of ours are, after all, quite small and won't last very long. Yet this short time of distress will result in God's richest blessing upon us forever and ever!" 2 Cor. 4:17 (LB)

"richest blessing".

- Notice that that is a comparative term.

- "Richest" like "most of all".
- The Bible teaches very clearly that there are going to be levels of rewards in heaven.

5. hang in there

1 Peter 4:19 (The Message) So if you find life difficult because you're doing what God said, take it in stride. Trust him. He knows what he's doing, and he'll keep on doing it.

Sometimes suffering is exactly God's will for your life.

- Why? Because God is more interested in your character than in your comfort.
- There is a certain brand of Christianity out there today that says God wants everyone to be healthy, wealthy and millionaires and you should always be healed, and you should always have every prayer answered and you should always have everything you want and never have any problems. If you do have problems it means you don't have enough faith.
- The spiritual term for this is "nonsense!"

If God answered every prayer you ever made, and gave you everything you ever wanted, and took away all your problems, you'd be a spoiled brat

God will continually expose you to situation that require you to trust him