

Book	1-Peter
Study	Study 12
Topic	Suffering, we all have to deal
Reference	1 Peter 3:13-22
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We all have to deal with suffering. There is not a single person in the world that doesn't have to deal with suffering. We see this in so many instances. So therefore, 1-Peter is about suffering and in every different chapter you actually have different ways in which Peter tells us how to deal with suffering. There are four things in this particular passage looking from verse 14 onto 22 that Peter tells us how we are to deal with suffering.

How do we deal with suffering?

1. First of all we have to realize we are blessed despite our unfair suffering
2. We have to reject fear and anxiety by setting apart Christ as Lord
3. We have to be sure of what you believe and stand up for it.
4. Maintain a good conscience, do not give in to retaliation
5. Appropriate the victory that is yours in Christ

1. Realize We Are Blessed Despite Our Unfair Suffering

*1 Peter 3:13-17 (ESV) Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? 14 But even **if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed***

So therefore even though you act righteously, you pay your taxes, you have integrity, you know, most likely you encounter less trouble unless you are like robber barren or you steal and you rob, definitely you are going to have trouble but even if you are innocent you may suffer and that's the big problem in life. If you look at the work of Viktor Frankl who is an Austrian psychiatrist, who was jailed by the Nazis during the Second World War. He wrote this book, 'Man's Search for Meaning' and he found that in the Nazi concentration camps when they suddenly pounce upon you and beat him, when they beat him for a reason it was okay, when they beat him unfairly, somebody stole the banana and he got beaten for it. He says that emotional pain for being beaten for something unfair was far more than the beating itself, which is very odd. But that is actually a psychological phenomenon that is real.

If you look at the work of Matthew Lieberman at the University of California, they did look at MRIs of how our brain responds to unfairness and you found that they have certain areas in your brain, they are hurt centres that come out if you actually treat someone unfairly. So studies also show that if you actually do videogames and people play videogames and they got rewarded very unfairly. Do you know, they get depressive symptoms one year later on. That's how important unfairness is. People actually feel that unfairness is a significant issue and the most unfair suffering in the world is Jesus Christ. The most perfect person in the world and he is hanging on the cross and he is not complaining, instead he is saying, 'My God, my God why have you forsaken me?'

What do you think he said that?

It is not the pain of the nails through his hands and his legs, he was complaining about unfairness. My god whom I known from eternity past, you left me to hang here. That is the pain of emotional

separation which is so unfair because he doesn't deserve it. So therefore, that's an example for us. When we actually suffer for no apparent reason, it is unfair. You actually feel the pain more.

So suffering unfairly is a reality, but here the Bible says,

*1 Peter 3:14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, **you will be blessed.***

Because Jesus said

Matthew 5:10-12 (ESV) Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

So actually persecution or suffering unfairly is a sign of God's favor, an evidence of your salvation. If you look at the heavenly reality. John has a vision in Book of Revelations

Revelation 6:9 (ESV) When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. 10 They cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" 11 Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.

Revelation 12:11 (ESV) And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.

Which means unfair suffering is going to be a reality for Christians and it is something which they actually use in order to overcome.

2. Reject Fear and Anxiety by Setting Apart Christ as Lord

Have no fear of them, nor be troubled,

Sometimes when you hear about the stories of unfair suffering or persecution you get afraid and Peter say, we are not to be troubled, we are not to be afraid

15 but in your hearts honour Christ the Lord as holy,

In the Greek it actually says, sanctify Christ the Lord, which means set him apart. In your life, there is a special place for him where he is placed, it is his proper position where he should be who is Christ the Lord. You put Christ the Lord in a special place in your life and that actually comes from Isaiah 8. It was the time where the Northern Kingdom had ally together with the Assyrians and they were going to threaten the Southern Kingdom

Isaiah 8:11-12 (ESV) or the Lord spoke thus to me with his strong hand upon me, and warned me not to walk in the way of this people, saying:

So we will not fear God more than other people unless we know the truth about God and his people. So if you look at the kingdom of Assyria, it was huge, and Judah was right down. What you actually have is Israel which is the only king influenced by Assyria, both they and Assyria are threatening Judah and the people are afraid and Isaiah saying to them

12 *“Do not call conspiracy all that this people calls conspiracy, and do not fear what they fear, nor be in dread.*

So everybody is talking about all this fear and all this death and destruction that come. It is like reading Malaysian Chronicle and every day you read and then you see it is always Mahathir and Anwar, who is going to take over, who is going to cheat who, every day you read this you might also give up because it is so frightening. But Isaiah says, you are not to fear what people fear. You are supposed to trust Him

13 But the Lord of hosts, him you shall honor as holy. Let him be your fear, and let him be your dread. 14 And he will become a sanctuary

Only when you fear him he becomes your sanctuary. If you actually look upon God as who he really is then only you can feel the safety there. If you don't understand who he is, who he really is as the Lord of all the earth then you would be fearful of everything else comes. So to combat fear, you should hold him as number 1 holy in your life. So basically as Christ as Lord in our life we actually in real life are dependent on our family, wealth, self-esteem, reputation and everything else. It is only when these things are threatened when we have fear. So the point is to actually shift our dependence upon Christ because Christ can never be threatened. That's one area in your life, He is the Lord of life. That foundation cannot be shaken. So life is basically shifting your dependence up here, so as you make Christ the Lord, you honor him and sanctify in your life that basically shields you.

King Saul was supposed to capture the enemy, he was supposed to have killed all the enemy and also the sheep, to offer to God, but he didn't do that. He kept it behind and he actually sinned and the reason why he sinned was

1 Samuel 15:24 (ESV) Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice.

We tend to fear people more than we fear God. That's the main problem. Even for Saul, he is a king of all of Israel, he fears the opinion of people more than he fears God, which is basically the reason why he sinned. Jesus tells

John 12:42-43 (ESV) Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; 43 for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.

So they fear the crowd. If they accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and savior, they will be kicked out of the synagogue. They will be scum of the earth, they will be disenfranchised, they will be marginalized, they will be poor. So therefore they did not believe.

The UK ambassador recently wrote this

For a man who has risen to the highest office in the planet, Trump radiates insecurity

The UK ambassador is saying that this guy has got the top job in the entire world, why should the most powerful man in the world be so insecure. His crowd must be the biggest, his voice must be the loudest, his airplane must be the fastest, why because deeply inside no matter who you are, you could be president of United States, you are still deeply insecure. There is a fear and that is the bottom-line. So if you look at the truth about ourselves, do we actually have fear. If you actually dig deeper, we actually have fear. The symptoms of fear in life are peer pressure, criticism, worry about what other people think, how you talk, trapped by people's praise, save face, fear of offending, over commitment, avoiding people because they look down on you. So these are all symptoms of fear when we fear people. So

therefore we need to be basically sanctify, set apart Christ as the Lord of our life, His opinion counts, His purposes count, by love for him is above everything else and when you do that you put yourself on stable ground, you are not swayed by people's opinion, you are not swayed by people's action, you are not swayed by people's criticism, your day is not spoiled when somebody comes up and says something not quite so true and not quite so nice, nor they change when somebody give you artificial praise. So basically we need to put our lives on the firmer footage.

3. Be sure of what you believe and stand up for it.

always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,

So here he is asking us to be sure of what you believe because in times of suffering you must go back and say, why did I become a Christian, why am I suffering. A lot of people become Christian because what the pastor told them or their father was a Christian, those are very terrible reasons. You actually have to have your own faith. Can you answer the question of why you are a Christian? So therefore all of us should have some idea and this whole idea of defense is from the word called apologia. Apologetics comes from the Greek word apologia, which means a defense, as in a court of law. Christian apologetics involves making a case for the truth of the Christian faith.

So all of us must know some little bits of apologetics. Martin Luther said,

Unless I am convinced by Scripture and plain reason—I do not accept the authority of the popes and councils, for they have contradicted each other—my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not recant anything for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. Here I stand. I can do no other. God help me. Amen.

He was convicted by two things; scripture and logic. Jesus has an apologia. He defends himself, pointing to miracles that he has done, they attest to his divinity and also the prophecies about himself. Paul writes in 2-Corinthians

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (ESV) For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. 5 We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,

Apologetics is involved in strongholds. It means presenting your faith in such a rationale manner that people think, hey he make sense. So therefore their minds, their thoughts, their opinions are changed. So that's called apologetics. So the purpose of apologetics are threefold:

1. To influence culture
2. To strengthen the believers in times of suffering
3. To win souls for Christ

Apologetics communicates with the culture to make them more comfortable with the Christian faith. It narrows the gap between belief and unbelief, so it is more acceptable to become a Christian as it were. So we do not train our young people, we send them to university and they get devastated because they don't have a rationale understanding of the Christian faith, why they believe and that's why apologetics is important. Apologetics is a rationale defense of the Christian faith.

The first thing to talk to them about is basically meaning in life, what is meaning in life because that's what you want to talk to them about because that's what make sense. Meaning life can only be found in God and how do you know about God, you know through general revelation through the creation or special revelation through the Bible and if general revelation we look at causation, design, morality,

special revelation is the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is a very simple barebone stick which I hold in my mind as I talk to any non-Christian. It is quite useful to have this sort of working thing.

So the presence of God allows meaning: What meaning is to do with significance, why something matters? You see if you don't have God, nothing really matters. Why do people kill themselves? Because when they go to a party, they are not excited anymore because they have been to 105 parties, when they are not in a party, they are also not excited and they suddenly feel that there is not really very much to live for. In fact in the West, in Belgium, they don't call suicide, suicide anymore, they call it opting out. The number one cause of suicide is because there is no meaning. Meaning has to do with significance. Why something matters, ask yourself in your life today what matters to you. Now if you got something that matters then the second one is value. What is good, what is right, what is wrong and the last thing is that if you've got meaning, they got things that are good or bad or evil and then finally purpose has to do with goal or reason. Now if you don't have God there will be no meaning, no value and no purpose.

You might as well be 'Neo' if you watched the movie 'Matrix'. In Matrix, he is laying there and the computer hooked up to his brain and everything is a computer game. So imagine there are some movies like this, you sit down there and everything is played out in your brain as a computer game and all you do is just lie down the whole day, 24 hours a day, you know, they just feed you through a tube. How would you like that? Because in that way life has no meaning, it is an illusion. So basically life is an illusion. Because without God there is no broader framework within which man's life can be seen to matter. Everything is like an illusion already.

What is the difference between you and a mosquito, why should you kill the mosquito, why should you ride a horse, life is life?

"The fate of the sons of men and the fate of beasts is the same. As one dies so dies the other; indeed, they all have the same breath and there is no advantage for man over beast, for all is vanity. All go to the same place. All came from the dust and all return to the dust" (Eccl. 3:19–20 NASB).

If you actually look at it, life is like that. So does it matter whether you are Mother Teresa or Hitler, it doesn't matter because in the end you all wind up as dust.

1. Without immortality there is no moral accountability, and your moral choices become inconsequential.
2. Without God moral values are just delusions ingrained into us by evolution and social conditioning.

So basically first thing to establish there needs to be something to give you meaning in your life when you talk to friends and that has to be something that matters, some immortal God. Now talking about God, does he really exist. Three things, the first is creation and Psalm 19 says

Psalms 19:1-4 (ESV) The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. 2 Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. 3 There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard. 4 Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world

So basically creation speaks volumes and it tells you there is a God. So everybody you talk to even those who say there is no God actually if you have a deeper conversation with them, you will have some idea there is some kind of God. Elizabeth Barrett Browning has a very nice poem, she says

Earth's crammed with heaven,
And every common bush aflame with God;
But only those who see take off their shoes,
The rest sit round it and pluck blackberries

So only those who seek will take off their shoes and recognize that the creation is speaking to them. so we are looking at general revelation that God exist. How do I know God exists? Well basically three things.

Whatever begins to exist has a cause. Everything in the world has got a cause if it begins to exist. So therefore in the universe today, is there anything that we can guess from nothing. Everything that exists has to start from some sort of beginning if you recall. Common experiences prove this. Experience tells you, science tell you, everything tells you that it has a cause. If everything that begins has a cause now the universe has a beginning, we now know the big bang theory but from the beginning, because there is a beginning so there must be a cause. So therefore you look at the work of Einstein, Arnold Penzias, looking at background radiation. These people have shown that the universe has a beginning. If the universe began to exist, therefore the universe has a cause. You cannot say the universe pop into being for nothing and if it has a cause that means it is a first uncaused cause by definition.

The other one is design. If we look at the argument from design. You can see there is a finetuning of the universe. There are gravitational constants, electromagnetic force versus force of gravity, cosmological constants. These are little constants of physics that keep the universe as it is. If you actually alter these constant by a really-really small number, the universe cannot exist. It is like standing up against the wall and I get a 100 people with a machinegun and everybody aim at you to shoot and everybody shoots and in the end not one bullet hits you. It must be a conspiracy. 100 fellows cannot miss one guy. So therefore all these finetuning tells you that the universe is designed for life on earth. Anything that changes, the universe cannot sustain life. You cannot explain how this happens.

Charles Townes, a noble prize winner in 1964 says,

Intelligent design, as one sees it from a scientific point of view, seems to be quite real. This is a very special universe: it's remarkable that it came out just this way. If the laws of physics weren't just the way they are, we couldn't be here at all. The sun couldn't be there, the laws of gravity and nuclear laws and magnetic theory, quantum mechanics, and so on have to be just the way they are for us to be here.

So here is a noble prize winner in physics, argument for design. If you look at the DNA that we actually have, every person's DNA, 500,000 base pairs, four chemicals in exact correct sequence. If we look at the theory of evolution, we understand microevolution exist that has substantiated but we have no evidence that one species become another species. It is very-very unlikely to create a single cell from a combination of chemicals. So there is a design element. So therefore we believe God causes things, designs things.

The last argument is morality. William Ritchie from the University of Cambridge argues, there is objective natural and moral order. Natural and moral order basically from our experiences can only be explained by something outside. What can account for the natural order and moral order in the world. Moral values are what is good and what is bad. Moral duties are obligations to do good and bad.

Where do we get these moral values and duties? You can have objective ones, which are independent of people's opinion. If you look at things across the bridge, the holocaust in 1945 where Jews were killed, 6 million of them. It is horribly wrong. It doesn't matter what time you live in, these are atrocities across

the board. So basically what is the basis of moral value, the sanctity of human life. Some people say, natural selection. Charles Darwin says

If ... men were reared under precisely the same conditions as hive-bees, there can hardly be a doubt that our unmarried females would, like the worker-bees, think it a sacred duty to kill their brothers, and mothers would strive to kill their fertile daughters; and no one would think of interfering.

But we are not like that. We believe in a sanctity of life and there must be another theory to the sanctity of life, there must be a moral code giver which is basically God. It transcends whatever you are. For example, some time ago MB Khalid Ibrahim criticized MACC handling of the killing of Teoh Beng Hock and actually the Berita Harian managing editor came out and he said these shocking words.

"it was not right for Khalid to question "those of the same race as him." "undermine Malay institutions"

That is absolutely stupid. You could be a Chinese, Indian and Malay but nobody believe you would say that, because racism transcends cultures, transcends nation. There is a objective right and objective wrong. So the moral argument asserts, not that belief in God is necessary for objective morality, but that the existence of God is necessary. Both the natural realm and the moral realm are under the authority of a God who gave us both the laws of nature and the moral law.

So therefore if there is morality that means there must be a moral code giver behind. So we have the reason to say why we are a Christian, why we believe there is a God. These are solid reasons.

The other one is special revelation which comes from the word of God, basically Jesus Christ. We are accountable to God

Romans 1:18-20 (ESV) For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. 19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So, they are without excuse.

Jesus said I am the way and the truth. There are basically five facts about the resurrection which 75% of all scholars have accepted.

- He was crucified,
- Paul was converted
- Empty tomb
- Disciples, lives would change
- James was converted.

You can have various theories, you can believe there are identical twin, they lost him in burial, the body was stolen, he was resuscitated, they were all having hallucinations but the most likely is resurrection. So that's the most powerful evidence we have. So these are all the things that you should keep at the back of your mind and apply them when you are talking to friends and it strengthens your faith.

4. Maintain A Good Conscience: Do Not Give In To Retaliation

yet do it with gentleness and respect, 16 having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

So when you are attacked, you basically feel so unfair. When you feel it is so unfair you try to make it fair, you retaliate and Peter is saying that you don't retaliate, you do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscious means you don't sin. So the people who whack you will feel shame in their own hearts. So this is the evidence that your gospel works. If you retaliate and whack them back, you are just as bad as them. That means your gospel doesn't work. You talk about Jesus dying for your sin, Jesus love you and die for you, the fact that you maintain a good conscious and you don't retaliate means your gospel works.

For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

So retaliation will make you as evil as they are then you get very upset.

5. Appropriate The Victory That Is Yours In Christ

You have to understand that there is a victory that is already yours in Christ Jesus. How can we have the power to submit to God's will even though it is unfair and the reason is

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,

Every injustice in life is put on this side but when Christ brings himself and dies on your behalf the scales are already tipped. What happens to all your complaints, they disappear because the debt that he paid for you was far far far greater. So every time you feel it is unfair then you cast your eyes back on what Christ has done for you. This part of the scale is totally tipped, so everything else is emptied.

It was totally unfair for Christ to suffer for us. So therefore he has a right that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.

Now he is talking about the victory of God. So he dies for you, he brings you to God. He died and was resurrected and during that time he went and proclaimed

19 in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, 20 because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah,

So he is talking about the Noah. The time when Jesus died. These spirits in prison could be the souls of the dead, either the Old Testament faithful or basically the dead during the flood, they are kept in the place of the dead called Hades. So when they died, the place of dead and when Jesus died he went and visited them and then preached to them. But the problem by translating it that way is that first of all when you die you have to answer judgment. We cannot preach the gospel to the dead because it is too late. So it doesn't quite make sense. I think the key to the interpretation is basically the word. The Greek word is 'pneumata', which comes from spirit and pneumata is never used for humans, only one time is used for humans and that's qualified spirits of the righteous. All other times the word pneumata is used for supernatural being. So it could either be fallen angels or spirits of demons, which are basically offspring of fallen angel. So basically the word in Greek 'pneumata' can only refer to supernatural beings probably fallen angels and whatever.

The other one is spirits in prison. The word in prison is never used for human souls. Human souls are in hades, the place of the dead but they are never in prison. Only the devil is put in prison. So therefore it is more likely that these are fallen angels kept in prison and when Christ died, during the time he died he went and proclaimed victory, judgment on them because he comes and is resurrected. So that's a more likely thing. Because these are demons or angels who are rebellious,

20 because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water.

Now here as he declares this victory, we got a problem here. In those days, the patience of God is interpreted by the persecuted minority as inaction. So you actually have Noah with the family of eight and the whole world was engulfed in sin and they sinned against God so badly that God had decided to punish over mankind and so Noah starts building an ark. As he was building an ark, people laughed at him, persecute him and all that but Noah is very quiet, he keeps on building. It takes him many many years to build, God doesn't punish the people, all the time he is building God was patient until in the end the flood comes and that's the same. Here you have got a persecuted minority, eight of them, being persecuted by the whole evil world and while they were building the ark, it seem as if God doesn't care how they suffer. Now you put for the people who are the Christians during Peter's time, a minority too, they are also suffering, they are also persecuted by the people who are evil around them and God in action can be interpreted as God doesn't care, God doesn't hear, God is not going to do anything. So therefore he is telling them, just like in the time of Noah, the time of Noah there was a period when God was patient just before he let go the judgment. So therefore he is saying to the people, you are now going through a period of suffering, you are minority like the eight, do not misinterpret this time as God's inaction or incompetence, God will act one day.

So he is now drawing a parallel between Noah's ark and baptism.

Baptism, which corresponds to this

Here you actually have a situation where there is Noah's ark and baptism. Parallels between Noah's ark and Baptism

Noah's Ark	Baptism
Persecuted minority-suffering.	Persecuted minority-suffering
God's patience interpreted as inaction	God's patience interpreted as inaction
God sent water as judgment	Waters of baptism represents death
Same water of judgment that killed majority saved minority by refuge in ark	Same water of judgment saved minority by refuge in Christ

So he is drawing a parallel picture as it were. So basically it is the ark, water, you are saved from the water by the water because the ark floats. The difference is that you are in the ark. How is it different in baptism. In baptism you go inside the waters, it represents your death to sin and you rise up and the reason why you can rise up in resurrection is because you hung onto Jesus. So that's the victory that you have. So it is a bit of a difficult passage to apply.

So when the great flood of suffering comes into your life, you will feel fear, anxiety, you want to retaliate, you hate, you are bitter and you want to give into violence but there is a little boat over there, it is a boat called Christ, you need to climb into that boat to lift you up. Baptism which corresponds to this now saves, not by removal of dirt but an appeal to God for good conscience, which means perfect. That means you got a perfect life. God gives you a good conscience by giving you the righteousness of Christ. When you actually have Christ's righteousness, you stand before God you consciousness is absolutely clear.

So baptism doesn't clean your dirt, baptism gives you a clean conscience because of what Christ has done for you.

through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

So it is how you look at life. When you are suffering, you could look at life like people spitting at you, people upset, people unhappy and all you see in your suffering is all this. There is no end. Then you go a bit higher up, you get a bird's eye view and you got even higher up and you see God's eye view. Peter is telling us that when you are suffering you need to take this view, because Christ whom you are joined to

1 Peter 3:21-22 (ESV) through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

So when you are suffering you can do two things, you can look at life like this or you could look at life like that. There was a big storm in the sea of galilee and Jesus came to the disciples, walking on the water. They were shocked and thought it is a ghost and then Peter really say, Lord command me to come to you and this guy got up and he actually can walk on water and Matthew 14:22 says and then he saw and the wind and he became afraid. When he became afraid he started sinking and then Jesus had to come up there and grab him. Now I think that is the picture of what Peter was trying to tell you here, because Peter was the one who went through that. As Peter we can be like Peter to troubles we can look at Jesus, reach out our hands, we can walk on water, we can do anything, we can last through anything, we can do miracles but the moment Peter took his eyes off Jesus and saw the wind and then he became afraid and he was sinking.

Now all of us cannot keep our eyes on Jesus every day, some days you see the wind, some days you see Jesus, now when you see the wind you sink, when you see Jesus he lifts you up. Life is like that. So when you are suffering unjustly, there are a lot of times in our lives where you just have to remember to look at life through the view of life through an empty tomb. You look at life as if you are inside the tomb and the stone being rolled away and Christ has risen and you can look at life through an empty tomb. There are so many possibilities but the moment you take your eyes off the empty tomb, the moment you take your eyes off and just on the wind and the suffering all the commotion in the world then you start to sink and that's the story of Peter he is going to tell you right now because he is the one that took his eyes off and when we are suffering we need to understand that we are now living in a time where the tomb is empty, we have the victory, Christ is at the right hand of God, we need to claim that victory and live through his trial.