

“The King’s Highway!”
1 Peter 2:21-25

Introduction:

1. We Are Going To Head Back To 1 Peter This Morning, Where We Will Find At Least One Very Familiar Verse To Many Of Us!
 - Many Of You Have Probably Read The Classic Book Written By Charles Sheldon: “In His Steps!”
 - Where An Entire Church Was Transformed In One Year Simply By Trying To Follow The Steps Of Jesus Whenever They Had A Decision To Make!
 - The Passage Of Scripture They Looked To Was:
 - 1 Peter 2:21b - “Leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps!”
 - And Even If You Haven’t Read The Book, You Are Familiar With The Question They Would Ask Themselves:
 - “What Would Jesus Do?”
 - This Has Been Shortened To: WWJD
 - And It Is A Good Question To Ask When We Have Decisions To Make Or Problems To Solve!
2. But, This Morning, I Want Us To Look At The Context Of That Idea Of “Following In His Steps!”
 - What Kind Of Example Did Jesus Give Us To Follow?
 - As We Read 1 Peter 2:21-25, We Will See That It Is The Example Of Submission & Service Through Suffering!
 - Read 1 Peter 2:21-25!
3. This Is The Path Of Jesus That We Should Follow!
 - The Path Of Submission & Service Through Suffering!
 - This Is The King’s Highway!
 - **IE:** A King’s Highway Was Always A Very Well-Known, Well-Protected, And Well-Maintained Road Throughout A Kingdom! It’s Design Was By The King! It’s Development Was By The King! It’s Destination Was For The King!
 - The Path Of Suffering Is Our King’s Highway!
 - It’s Design Was By Our King!
 - It’s Development Was By Our King!
 - It’s Destination Is For Our King!
 - We Are Going To Look At Our King’s Highway Today!
 - Because It Is His Path That We Must Follow!
 - Are You Following The Path Of Jesus?

1. The Design Of The King’s Highway!

- 2:21 - “For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps!”
 - **IE:** Any Good Project Will Have A Good Design! For Cars / Houses / Buildings - Like Our Handicap Accessibility Project - Good Design / Roads!
 - The Path That Every Christian Is To Go On Has Been Designed By God!
- God Has A Plan For Your Path!
 - “For Unto This You Were Called!”
 - John Lillie - “Here Is The Royal Road - The King’s Highway - In Which The King Himself Was A Traveler!”
 - The Christian Life Starts With A Call!
 - It Was A Call Initiated By God!
 - It Was A Call Responded To By The Believer!
 - It Is A Call FROM Something / Someplace!
 - It Is A Call TO Something / Someplace / Someone!
 - God’s Call Shows That He Has A Plan!
 - But “Unto What” Is A Christian Called?
 - Looks Back To The Previous Commands To Submit To Your Authorities Even Though You Are Suffering!
 - The Call To Be A Christian Is A Call To Suffer!
 - The Apostles Understood This In Acts 14:23 - “That we must through much

- tribulation enter into the kingdom of God!”
 - Don't Be Surprised When You Suffer!
 - This Is What You Were Called To When You Were Called To Become A Christian!
 - God Has A Pattern For Your Path!
 - “Because Christ also suffered for us!”
 - When We Suffer, We Are Not Alone!
 - “Christ Also Suffered!”
 - An Empathetic Suffering! He Knows / Feels Our Pain!
 - Hebrews 4:15-16 - “For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. / Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need!”
 - But His Suffering Was Not Just Like Ours! More!
 - An Eternal Suffering!
 - Revelation 13:8 - “The Lamb Slain Before The Foundation Of The World!”
 - As Christ He Suffered! The Anointed One Of God!
 - Jesus Knew What Would Happen When He Came!
 - He Came Anyways!
 - An Expressive Suffering!
 - “For Us!” - Expressed / Showed His Love!
 - Jesus Suffered For You!
- God Has A Purpose For Your Path!
 - “Leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps!”
 - The Path Of Jesus' Suffering Is The Path We Are To Follow!
 - “Example”
 - To Draw Lines For Children Learning To Write!
 - The Life Of Jesus is What Our Life Should Look Like When We Suffer!
 - Not The Specific Suffering / But The Responses To The Suffering!
 - “Follow”
 - To Tread In The Footsteps Of Another!
 - **IE:** Like A Child Trying To Walk In The Footprints Of His Father In The Snow! Can't Quite Make Those Large Steps - But Tries!
 - Jesus Came & Suffered For Us So That We Might Know How To Respond When We Are Suffering – Especially Unjustly!
- Are You Following The Path Of Jesus?
 - John Lillie - “True, those footsteps lead far down into the valley of humiliation. Yea, all over it, and it its lowest, darkest depths, you will find them, wet with His tears and blood. But follow them none the less earnestly – none the less confidently. For they also lead through it, and out of it; and they are the footsteps of the Son of God, our Savior!”
 - This Is The Design Of Our King's Highway!
 - And It Is Well Designed!
 - Let Us Follow His Steps Wherever They Lead!

2. ***The Development Of The King's Highway!***

- 2:22-24a - “Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: / Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: / Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree!”
 - **IE:** Noone Likes Road Construction - It Is A Very Messy Project! Mt. Comfort! Confusing As Well! But Once The Road Has Been Developed - Nice! Well Marked! Know Exactly Where You Are Going!
 - The Path That Jesus Laid Out For Us Was Messy & Confusing! But, Now That It Is Finished, You Know Exactly How To Follow The Path Of Jesus! Here Is The Example We Are To Follow!
- The Reputation Of Jesus! (2:22)

- In Both His Character & Conduct, Jesus Was Completely Righteous! Even When He Suffered! His Suffering Was Completely Undeserved!
- Pure In His Works!
 - “Did No Sin!” Period! Never!
 - Hebrews 4:15 - “In all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin!”
- Pure In His Words!
 - “Neither Was Guile Found In His Mouth!”
 - Peter Himself Was An Eyewitness Of This!
 - Only Spoke The Truth!
- We Are Called To Have The Same Kind Of Reputation!
 - That Does Not Deserve To Suffer - Even Though We Do Suffer!
 - Is This Your Reputation!
 - “Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps!”
- The Response Of Jesus! (2:23)
 - Jesus Always Responded The Right Way To His Authorities!
 - Even Though They Caused His Suffering!
 - When He Was Verbally Attacked!
 - “Reviled!”
 - He Responded With Grace!
 - “Reviled Not Again!”
 - Many Times, He Just Remained Silent!
 - Isaiah 53:7 - “He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth!”
 - Many Of Peter’s Thoughts / Reflections About Jesus Come From Isaiah 53!
 - When He Was Physically Afflicted!
 - “Suffered!”
 - “The Purple Robe, The Crown Of Thorns, The Smiting, The Scourging, The Nails, The Cross!” (Lillie)
 - He Responded With Grace!
 - “Threatened Not!”
 - Instead He Even Offered Forgiveness!
 - “Father, Forgive Them!”
 - Instead: He “Committed Himself!”
 - Not Just Himself, But Everything!
 - He Left Everything In The Hands Of His Just Father! His Will / His Words / His Works / His War!
 - We Are Called To Have The Same Kind Of Response!
 - Is This Your Reputation!
 - “Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps!”
- The Reclaiming Of Jesus! (2:24a)
 - Jesus Reclaimed His Own Suffering, And Used It For His Own Purpose!
 - “Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree!”
 - Like Joseph - Genesis 50:20 - “But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive!”
 - Jesus Reclaimed His Suffering! To Bear:
 - The Charge Of Our Sin!
 - The Consequences Of Our Sin!
 - The Curse Of Our Sin!
- This Is The Development Of Our King’s Highway!
 - And It Has Been Well Developed!
 - Are You Following The Path Of Jesus?
 - With The Same Kind Of Reputation / Response / Reclaiming?

3. ***The Destination Of The King's Highway!***

- 2:24b-25 - "That we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. / For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls!"
 - **IE:** Any Good Road Has A Destination! Why Drive?
 - The Path Of Jesus Has A Destination! The Best Destination! For Your Good!
- The Result Of Following The Path Of Jesus!
 - "Being Dead To Sins, Should Live Unto Righteousness!"
 - Now:
 - Sin Is Your Foe! You Have "Become Utterly Alienated From Your Sin!" (Thayer)
 - Righteousness Is Your Friend! You Have Become "Enabled To Live Righteous Lives!" (Quorollo)
 - You Are No Longer Living Under The Threat Of Eternal Punishment For Your Sin! Now, You Are Free To Do That Which Pleases God!
 - Quotes Isaiah 53:5 - "By Whose Stripes Ye Were Healed!"
 - Suffering Was The Instrument Of Salvation!
 - And Still Is!
- The Reality Of Following The Path Of Jesus!
 - "For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned!"
 - Again, Quoting From Isaiah 53:6!
 - This Was Your Reality! What Your Life Was Like!
 - Aimless / Empty / Without Any Real & Lasting Purpose!
 - But Now, Things Are Different!
- The Response Of Following The Path Of Jesus!
 - "Returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls!"
 - You Are "Returned" To God!
 - He Is The Guide Of Your Soul!
 - Like A Shepherd!
 - He Is The Guard Of Your Soul!
 - An Overseer!
 - "He Not Only Leads, Feeds, And Sustains His Own, But Also Guides, Directs and Protects Them!" (Hiebert)
- This Is The Destination Of Our King's Highway!
 - The Whole Reason Christ Came!
 - For You To:
 - "Live Unto Righteousness!"
 - "Be Healed!"
 - "Return Unto The Shepherd & Bishop Of Your Soul!"
 - Are You Following The Path Of Jesus?
 - Have You Responded To His Call?

Conclusion:

1. Sometimes The Journey Along A Road Is Long & Hard!
 - Even Along The King's Highway!
 - But The Destination Is Worth It!
2. Keep Following The Path Of Jesus!
 - It Is A Royal Road!

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