

## SERIES: " CHOSEN AND EXILED" - - 6/16/24 (#8) PASTOR JEREMY

Priceless  
Advice -  
- Peter -  
Inspired  
By  
God -

- Pastor Jeremy reminisces about the sound advice we receive from parents, mentors, etc....priceless IF you take it. Question: if you could go back in time to your 'younger self', what advice, if any, would you offer?
- Virtually all of us would have some sage advice to our younger selves....even, perhaps, Peter....who is a very different person in his older, more mature and knowing years, filled with the experiences associated with being one of Jesus' closest disciples. This version of Peter, writing this Epistle years later is substantially wiser/more responsible than the person written about in the Gospels. In 1 (and 2) Peter, he is giving us the advise that he, himself, could have so savored/used as a young man.
- Through Peter, we will examine 4 pieces of advise he was inspired to offer....by way of answers to these questions: 1. How do we face disagreement? 2. How do we deal with stress and self-preservation? 3. How do we handle self-advancement in our lives? 4. As believers, how do we face injustice?

*1 Peter 3: 8 - - finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.*

Targeting  
Diverse  
Audiences:  
Then/Now

- Keep in mind the background as Peter writes this....eg. his own early failures....the very diverse audience/readership in this geography of Asia Minor..... ranging from exiled believers, the believers emerging from pagan backgrounds ('scripture-less') as well as believing Jews who might have been very distant, culturally and/or otherwise, from the Jerusalem-centered faith. Add to that variety those legalistic Jews who believed you had to become Jewish first as a prerequisite to becoming Christian. Lots of confusion!!
- Somewhat analogous to our Church today with its geographic, cultural, ethnic, political, etc. differences. So we need to listen to the advise of our Father just like they did- -saving ourselves from unnecessary regrets/mistakes/hardships.

Unity In  
Christ!

- So, back to Question 1: in light of Peter's call for UNITY and considering the diversity we live in, how do WE face the varying degrees of (inconsequential to consequential) disagreement? ('Olive Garden story') As it relates to Believers, there also can be disagreement...causing us to divide, making judgements, etc.; (even Peter faced disagreement with Paul) but we can have "unity of mind" in Christ (and His Word).....clinging to our commonality- - that being our Christ-centeredness. (He died for us...His blood shed for us...we have new life/forgiveness through Him.) In his time and day, Peter pleaded for that unity amongst factions of believers.

In:  
• Love,  
• Holiness  
• Humility

- To Question 2 and self preservation, Peter talks about SYMPATHY. ....letting your empathy and tender-heartedness and love toward others prevail. ....(Pool/kids/swim lessons story). We are called, as Believers, to be gracious....with: words.....time .....possessions...etc. In Peter's day and knowing that Believers would be subject to persecution, they would, as never before, have to have a Christ-like attitude.
- Question 3....how do we deal, along the same lines, with 'self-advancement' ....in our jobs and/or activities in a way that honors God. Peter speaks of/calls for humility. How do we present ourselves competitively but still be humble as Believers....a fine line. Using Peter as an example and notwithstanding all his credential-building as a close disciple of Jesus...when the 'chips were down' and Jesus was heading toward his crucifixion...Peter very overconfidently responded with 'grand' promises he couldn't keep ( ie. be persecuted/die with Him). **PETER MADE THE MISTAKE OF BEING HUMBLED INSTEAD OF BEING HUMBLE.**

- Question 4 and how we deal with injustice.....see continuing verses:

Shed Evil  
For Good!

1 Peter 3: 9-14 - Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. (10) for "Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit, (11) let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. (12) For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil." (13) 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. Have no fear of them nor be troubled.

Endure,  
Model &  
Do What's  
Right!

- Pastor Jeremy uses 'Dog Park' story to reflect the natural tendency of people to be aggressive and retaliatory. Peter, himself was an example (Garden of Gethsemane...his slicing of guard's ear) and JESUS' RESPONSE WAS THE PERFECT EXAMPLE OF NOT REPAYING EVIL WITH EVIL (BUT WITH GOODNESS). Peter, ultimately and much later understood that, IN JESUS, THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE WOULD BE ENDED.
- In this vein, we also- today - are not called upon to seek revenge but to respond with 'blessing'.....to react like Christ would.....see Psalm 34 which shares what life looks like when you follow God (He will see and hear you and provide life filled with blessings). NOTE: This does NOT mean there will be no suffering. We have to coach our kids in this regard. Risk and reward does not always happen in this natural world, exacerbated by the proportion of non-believers. DO THE RIGHT THING AND GOD SEES YOU.

Honor  
Christ!

1 Peter 3: 15-17 - But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; 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. (17) For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

See The  
Big  
Picture!

- Why follow God's advise?....BECAUSE THERE IS SO MUCH MORE AT STAKE! This is about the Gospel....about salvation....about affecting other people's lives whose eyes may open to Him. Inspired by Christ, pursue holiness in the hope and prayer that others follow! The world recognizes Christ as they see evidence of Christ.....Christ magnified!
- Final word on suffering...we all will suffer in our lives....should we not suffer for Jesus as He did for us??!
- As we examine the advise relayed through Peter..... What does that look like for each of us as we Believers continue to face the challenges of our individual lives???

**CHRIST BE MAGNIFIED!!!!!!**