

Speaker: Stephen Whitmore
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Reading: 1 Peter 2v21-25

The first words that Peter heard from the Lord Jesus were, "Follow Me" (Matt 4:19). Now, Peter writes to those who have heard the call of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the message is still the same, follow me.

The Lord calls us to follow where He has gone, He does not ask us to suffer anything He has not first suffered.

What does it mean to follow?

A change of character, v22.
A change of attitude, v.23.
A Change of Heart, v.24.

A change of Character.

We are all sinners in the sight of God, "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God"(Rom 3:23). Our character has to change to become those who can follow the One who did no sin. "He did no sin neither was guile found in His mouth"

How can this change be accomplished? It is not by any effort that we can make. The power of sin can only be broken by one person, the Lord Jesus Christ because He bore our sins in His body to the tree. People will compare themselves to others as far as sin is concerned, but we need to recognise where we stand in the sight of God. The only answer is that "The blood of Jesus Christ, his son cleanseth us from all sin"

Too often, people only think of sins in terms of things like murder. "There is none righteous no not one"(Rom 3:10). We cannot do what is right. Not one person can live without falling short of the glory of God.

Some will say, "What if heart is right and actions are wrong? God knows the weakness of the human heart, recognises we would fail and knows we don't mean it".

Rom 3:11 answers this "There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God".

Does God take account of the heart of man? He says, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked" (Jer 17:9)

Some will ask, "What about those trying to do good works?" The Word of God records: "There is none that doeth good, no, not one"(Rom 3:12). The wonder of the message is that the one who did no sin was the one prepared to bear our sins. We cannot deliver ourselves from sin. There is One who can change us and break the power of sin in our lives. Although we may sin it should not have dominion have in the life of a believer.

A Change of Attitude.

Human nature is to stand up for our rights. He could have answered back without sinning but He would not. He was taken and mocked, He was brought before Pilate, He was crowned with thorns, He was spat upon, He was beaten with a rod. Yet He suffered in silence. He could have spoken and

all would have fallen as dead men but He choose to go through the suffering.

He lived His life in dependence on God. We should tread the path the Saviour trod. He has called us to a life where in the world we will face persecution.

It would have been true had He told them how they would be judged for what they were doing yet He would not threaten them.

We are not called to a pathway that is a bed of roses: we follow Him for He says “[Be of good cheer for I have overcome the world](#)” (John 16:33).

As He is now at the right hand, our place in heaven is secure.

A Change of Heart

How can these change be accomplished? It is not by any effort that we can make. The power of sin can only be broken by one person, the Lord Jesus Christ because He bore our sins in His body to the tree. People will compare themselves to others as far as sin is concerned, but we need to recognise where we stand in the sight of God. The only answer is that “[The blood of Jesus Christ, his son cleanseth us from all sin](#)”

“[I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth](#)”(Rom 1:16).

We must trust in the Lord and take Him at His word. The only thing that can change me is by coming by faith to the place where He suffered. During the three hours of darkness, everything we deserve was laid upon Him. Because of the work of Calvary and only because of that work God can forgive sins. If we trust Him, every claim of sin is removed because of what happened at Calvary.

“[All we like sheep have gone astray](#)”.

The shepherd seeks us, watches over us, takes us in his arms and carries us. The One on whom we turned our back is the one who cares for us. The word that comes to each one is “[Follow Me](#)”.