



1 Peter 2:21-25 (NIV) "21 To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. 22 "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." 23 When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he

entrusted himself to him who judges justly. 24 "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed." 25 For "you were like sheep going astray," but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls."

- **"ANSWERING THE CRITIC"**
- **"CONFRONTING THE PHONY"**
- **"ENCOURAGING THE INCONSISTENT"**
- **"FORGIVING THE CRUEL"**

"It makes me THINK of some of the STUFF that SOME OF US have KEPT AROUND far TOO LONG! Things that could DO US a lot of HARM!"

Rubel Shelly, Senior Minister & Author

**Ephesians 4:31,
"Get rid of all
BITTERNESS, RAGE, and
ANGER, BRAWLING, and
SLANDER, along with
every form of MALICE"**

- "BOUND HIM"
- "SNEERED AT HIM"
- "HURLED INSULTS AT HIM"
- "TESTIFIED AGAINST HIM"
- "STRIPPED HIM"
- "ROBE ON HIM"
- "CROWN OF THORNS"

- "SPIT AT HIM"
- "BLINDFOLDED HIM"
- "STRUCK HIM WITH FISTS"
- "BEAT HIM"
- "ACCUSED HIM"
- "CRUCIFIED HIM"

**Jesus,
MORE THAN ANYONE WE
KNOW; MORE THAN ANY
OF US COULD EVER
IMAGINE; was a VICTIM of
CRUELTY!**

**Question:
"Have you EVER KNOWN
ANYONE TO SHOW MORE
GRACE than did JESUS,
The Son Of God?"**

**1 Peter 2:21-24,
"To THIS you were CALLED, because
CHRIST SUFFERED FOR YOU, leaving
YOU an EXAMPLE, that YOU should
FOLLOW in HIS STEPS. He
COMMITTED NO SIN, and NO DECEIT
was FOUND in HIS MOUTH. When
they HURLED their INSULTS at Him,**

**He did NOT RETALIATE. When He
SUFFERED, He MADE NO THREATS.
Instead, He SURRENDERED HIMSELF,
to Him Who JUDGES JUSTLY; He,
HIMSELF, bore OUR SINS in His body,
on the tree, so that WE might DIE to
SINS, and LIVE for RIGHTEOUSNESS.
By HIS WOUNDS, you have BEEN
HEALED."**

I've got **ONE GOAL** in this MESSAGE this morning, and THAT is to BRING "HEALING" in the LIVES of SOME PEOPLE, who are **LIVING** with a SPIRIT of "UNFORGIVENESS" in their life, **BECAUSE** they have BEEN a "VICTIM" of CRUELTY.

"FIVE LESSONS" FOR US, TODAY:

- 1.) "ESCAPE", if POSSIBLE, and APPROPRIATE.

Luke 4,
"All the people in the synagogue were FURIOUS, when they HEARD THIS! They got up and **DROVE HIM OUT** of the town; took Him to the BROW of the HILL; in order to **THROW HIM DOWN THE CLIFF**, but He WALKED RIGHT THROUGH the crowd, and WENT ON HIS WAY!"

Acts 9,
"After many days had gone by, the Jews CONSPIRED to **KILL HIM**. But, Saul LEARNED THEIR PLAN. Day and night they kept CLOSE WATCH on the CITY GATES, in order to KILL HIM, but his FOLLOWERS took him BY NIGHT, and LOWERED HIM in a BASKET through an OPENING in the WALL."

There is "NOTHING SPIRITUAL", whatsoever, about "GOING HOME" to "ABUSE", day, after day, after day!

"FIVE LESSONS" FOR US, TODAY:

- 1.) "ESCAPE", if POSSIBLE, and APPROPRIATE.
- 2.) Do "NOT RETALIATE".

Romans 12:17,

“Do NOT REPAY, anyone, EVIL for EVIL. Be CAREFUL to DO what is RIGHT, in the EYES of EVERYBODY.”

Proverbs 24:25,

“But, it will GO WELL with those who CONVICT the GUILTY, and RICH BLESSING will COME upon them.”

“FIVE LESSONS” FOR US, TODAY:

- 1.) “ESCAPE”, if POSSIBLE, and APPROPRIATE.
- 2.) Do “NOT RETALIATE”.
- 3.) “PRAY” for THOSE who ABUSE you.

Matthew 5:44,

“I tell you, LOVE your ENEMIES, and PRAY for those who PERSECUTE you. BLESS those who CURSE you, and PRAY for those who MISTREAT you.”

“FIVE LESSONS” FOR US, TODAY:

- 1.) “ESCAPE”, if POSSIBLE, and APPROPRIATE.
- 2.) Do “NOT RETALIATE”.
- 3.) “PRAY” for THOSE who ABUSE you.
- 4.) “FORGIVE”, as QUICKLY as POSSIBLE!

Hebrews 12:15,

“See to it that NO ONE comes SHORT OF (misses) the GRACE of GOD, and that NO ROOT of BITTERNESS springing up, causes TROUBLE”

**"I went to grant
FORGIVENESS, and at the
SAME TIME, I got HEALED!"**

**Bud Welch, father of a daughter
killed in the Oklahoma City bombing**

"FIVE LESSONS" FOR US, TODAY:

- 1.) "ESCAPE", if POSSIBLE, and APPROPRIATE.
- 2.) Do "NOT RETALIATE".
- 3.) "PRAY" for THOSE who ABUSE you.
- 4.) "FORGIVE", as QUICKLY as POSSIBLE!
- 5.) "TRUST" in GOD'S CARE, even though He may seem DISTANT.

Jeremiah 15:21,

**"I'll SAVE YOU from the
HANDS of the WICKED, and
REDEEM YOU from the
GRASP of the CRUEL."**

**"ENTRUST
YOURSELF" to The
One Who JUDGES
JUSTLY!**

**"BY HIS
WOUNDS, WE
ARE HEALED!"**