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In Word and Deed
1 Peter 3:13-17
July 20, 2014, Adrian Moskal

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1 Peter 3:13-17 NLT

¹³ Now, who will want to harm you if you are eager to do good? ¹⁴ But even if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So don't worry or be afraid of their threats. ¹⁵ Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it. ¹⁶ But do this in a gentle and respectful way.* Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ. ¹⁷ Remember, it is better to suffer for doing good, if that is what God wants, than to suffer for doing wrong!

- a. Ask who shared Christ when you accepted.
- b. Tell story of white spot and Bruce and Donna.
 - didn't know Christ
 - had lots of questions

I had other interactions with people from CRBC. They answered my questions and asked me some. But let me tell you - no one put me in the corner with the gospel. No one tried to convince me.

- c. Then one day, I responded to a sermon and asked to join a ministry - Evangelism Explosion. It was a ministry where we went door to door sharing our faith. So I phoned Pastor Phil that week and said I wanted to join.

- d. Pastor Phil

Lots of people were involved - didn't just jump on me. Let me seek. Let me ask questions.

But pastor Phil shared. - that's what you do with good news.

That is the thing with stories... Everyone has one and they fit in God's big story.

But getting back to our passage. Here is the setting: Peter's letter was:

- was written to Christians after Christ was crucified, was seen again, and then ascended.
- Christians who didn't know what to make of being persecuted for their faith.
- Peter was encouraging them to stand strong - to remember Christ's example
- remember the riches of their inheritance in him
- Peter was called the apostle of hope
- the Christians were being persecuted for their faith and found themselves "alone" in a pagan society

1 Peter 3:13-17 NLT

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The passage starts with "Now" from the greek word "kai" - it means and - it is a connective word. But the commentators agree that in this case it means therefore. And what happens when we see therefore in the bible, we must look at what precedes this passage. So very important in this case.....Right before this passage is:

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1 Peter 3:10-12 NLT

¹⁰ For the Scriptures say,

“If you want to enjoy life
and see many happy days,
keep your tongue from speaking evil
and your lips from telling lies.

¹¹ Turn away from evil and do good.

Search for peace, and work to maintain it.

¹² The eyes of the Lord watch over those who do right,
and his ears are open to their prayers.

But the Lord turns his face
against those who do evil.”*

These are the things that they are asked to do even though they are being persecuted. Peter is saying - if you live rightly, who would want to do you harm and if they do... you will be rewarded for it.

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1 Peter 3:15 NLT

¹⁵ Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it.

The NIV for verse 15 says:

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

- one of the things we learned as we went through the Sermon on the Mount is that our behaviours flow out of our heart. Therefore, in our hearts we set Christ as Lord it will be apparent to everyone - especially when we suffer.

Key: When we place Christ rightly in our lives - our life changes. When we place Christ as Lord of our lives - our actions will flow out of that relationship. We will see the world differently. We will also trust him to build his church as he says he will. When the center of one's life is rightly related to God, he is able to respond properly to the changes of life.

- so as we suffer or sacrifice for “the gospel”, when others ask, we should be able to explain who and what is our hope in. It isn't in earthly circumstances but in the God above.

Why would someone ask for the hope that you have?

1 Peter 1

- outlines what Christ did for them - outlines the gospel.

What is the gospel - “the good news”

We are a broken people who sin. It is that sin that separates us from God. The gospel is where God the Father sent God the son down to earth. he took on human form. Lived a sinless life and died on the cross for the sins of the world. He conquered sin and death when he rose again to heaven. It is his story of who he is and what he has done. He has allowed us to be a part of the story but it is His story. He sent us God the Spirit to lead us as we partner with him and share this news with those around us. God will redeem the whole world.

- it then says that was a game changer - we can't go back. As we set Christ as Lord in our hearts - our behaviour changes and we are called to live holy lives. To love one another (we spent the last 6 months learning that).

1 Peter 2

- We are chosen people, royal priests - Jesus is the cornerstone - what it is all built on

- Respect everyone, and love your Christian brothers and sisters.

1 Peter 2:11-12 NLT

¹¹ Dear friends, I warn you as “temporary residents and foreigners” to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls. ¹² Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world.

And then we get to Chapter 3. And if someone asks for the the hope that you have, always be prepared to explain it.

They will ask, because you have set Christ as Lord in your hearts, in spite of trial and suffering you point to Christ and love one another. That is why they will ask.

As we respond positively to suffering for Christ - we will then answer why we have the hope that we have - because it is not the way the world responds to suffering.

Keep your conscience clear: Christians should only be abused for their “good” conduct. Believers are to live righteously so that those who abuse their good conduct will “be ashamed”

Story of Avery and Ryann

Ask question 'who likes a know it all?' I have come across this way or at least not with the humility needed.

Story of family.

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1 Peter 3:16 NLT

¹⁶ But do this in a gentle and respectful way. * Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ.

- gentleness - trusts God to do the work of changing attitudes and
- respect - respect God for being God.

Do we believe in the Holy Spirit - He is a person, he is God and at work right now.

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Traits of the Holy Spirit:

- adopts, affirms, gives access to the Father, anoints, comforts, convicts, commissions, directs, discerns, defends, guides, is holy, gives life, is omniscient, omnipresent, regenerates, sanctifies, teaches, plus more.

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Key: What are you hoping for a result. Ram the gospel down their throat, or trust the Holy Spirit. Obedience to Jesus. Do you trust God to be God. Part of our fear is we think it is our job is to convince people they need Christ. We think we need to be persuasive.

Matt Chandler says: “God is awesome. He doesn't need you to be awesome; He needs you to be obedient.”

Significant conversation. What are you hoping the result will be? They will be amazed at your knowledge or they will love the one who died for them. It Comes down to love.

How do we do this: Life group - group of disciples living as family, sent by the Spirit. Why do we do this? We encourage one another, live lives as missionaries in our neighbourhoods, pray for one another, and disciple one another.

Luke 9:1-2,6 NLT

One day Jesus called together his twelve disciples* and gave them power and authority to cast out all demons and to heal all diseases. ² Then he sent them out to tell everyone about the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick.

⁶ So they began their circuit of the villages, preaching the Good News and healing the sick.

Luke 9:35 NLT

³⁵ Then a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, my Chosen One.* Listen to him."

So what would your response be if God said that to you? What would you do? YOU WOULD LISTEN TO HIM. AND GUESS WHAT...HE DID SAY THAT TO YOU, TO ME, TO THE WHOLE WORLD IN THE BOOK HE WROTE FOR YOU - THE BIBLE.

Mark 16:15 NLT

¹⁵ And then he told them, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.

We can be strong in our faith because Jesus is with us and he sent the Holy Spirit to us. We also are a family as we live out our faith together. We need to continually repent from our sins and grow in Christ. As we share our faith, it has to be out of a heart that is gentle and respectful, because we have nothing to boast about. But we are entrusted to share this news.

I opened with asking who shared Christ with you? Who are you called to sacrifice for today, To love, to listen to. Who is Jesus calling you to share Christ with? If I share with bravado or a sledgehammer - It is about me. If I share with gentleness and respect, I am trusting the one who sent me.

If you don't have a personal relationship with Christ, let me share with you now. He is worthy of your faith, hope and love. Jesus made himself nothing for you and me. He gave up everything in heaven to come to earth to live a sinless life and was beaten and crucified - he bore the sins of the world - no one else could. Because we are all sinners and that is what separates us from God. But Jesus was raised from the dead to make a place in heaven for those who believe and trust in him. God has a plan, a story, that we get to be a part of. He is the writer of the story. If you want to start this journey today, you can pray right now and ask him to be your Lord and saviour. That you will turn from your ways and start following him today.