

**Life Group Notes**

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

**Speaker:** Sarah Horne

**Title:** 1 Peter: He carried our sin

**Passage:** 1 Peter 2: 22-25

Four really familiar verses, straight out of Isaiah 53.

Read v22 - He did no sin. He never lied

What's your best definition of sin?

That Jesus made it to His early 30s in a fully human body and never sinned is astounding! He is totally pure and good. Holy, set apart, different from us. It's hard to get our heads round it – [spend a few moments praising Jesus for who He is.](#)

v23 – People insulted Christ, but He did not insult them in return. Christ suffered, but He did not threaten. He let God take care of Him. God is the One who judges rightly.

Spurgeon said,

“Which hour do you think of the sufferings of the Lord, from Gethsemane to Golgotha, would be most deeply engraved upon the memory of Peter? Surely it would be that space of time in which he was mocked and buffeted in the hall of the high priest, when Peter sat and warmed his hands at the fire, when he saw his Lord abused, and was afraid to own that he was his disciple, and by-and-by became so terrified that, with profane language, he declared ‘I know not the man.’ So long as life lingered, the apostle would remember the meek and quiet bearing of his suffering Lord.”

Jesus had physical injuries – hitting, beating, buffeting, whipping, crown of thorns shoved in His head...and...He had an emotional beating – they blasphemed Him, mocked, called Him names, ridiculed Him, spat upon Him.

We get used to knowing this, the longer we're Christians, and can gloss over it. [Take a moment to think or chat about the suffering Jesus went through for us.](#)

Jesus was perfectly holy, and so free from sin that no temptation, no provocation whatsoever, could extort from him even a bad word. He made a choice in every moment to trust His Father God. And how did Jesus do that? Because as it says, “[He let God take care of Him. God is the One who judges rightly.](#)”

Jesus lived in total dependence on God the Father. He 100% trusted His Father in Heaven and so put up with everything, because He knew that the judgement of God will come in the end; that the Father would execute justice. So, Jesus didn't make justice for Himself. He put Himself and His situation in God's hands and left it there.

[Has someone done something bad to you this week? Is there something really unfair that's happening to you at the moment? How are you going to respond after today? Or how have you responded in the past? Discuss as a group. Pray with/for one another.](#)

V24 - Christ carried our sins in His body on the cross. He did this so that we would stop living for sin and start living for what is right. And we are healed because of His wounds.

“Christ carried our sins in His body on the cross”. Although Jesus never sinned, He carried ours. Discuss the bin bag illustration when James came up the front. Your sin is dealt with! Once for all. Each new sin we discover or remember, is already dealt with.

However, we can hold onto our sin and that can become a barrier between us and God from our end. It can make us hide from God, like Adam & Eve did. Don't let your feelings of shame and guilt build up like tartar on your teeth – keep short account with God.

Here's what Spurgeon says,

“He who bore my sins in his own body on the tree, took all my debts and paid them for me, and now I am dead to those debts; they have no power over me. I am dead to my sins; Christ suffered instead of me. I have nothing to do with them. They are gone as much as if they had never been committed.”

Do you need to confess anything right now and lay it down, believing/knowing it is dealt with?

Discuss anything that struck you from this verse and share experiences to help one another lay stuff down.

v25 - You were like sheep that went the wrong way. But now you have come back to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Our English translations say “we return” or “we come back” – as if it's our doing, but apparently in the original it was “but are now returned”. It's the passive use of the verb and shows that the return of a sinner is the effect of Divine grace. It was done to us or for us. We didn't initiate it. Which takes us back to things Peter has previously said about us being elect/chosen by God Himself.

Sarah read that when a sheep wanders off, it just stands there and bleats. Not because sheep are stupid, as is often said about them. But because a sheep's natural instinct is to stay with the flock for protection. So, once they're on their own, they don't know what to do.

Can you remember the clip Becca Poston made for the children over lockdown? What stood out to you from that? Discuss how we can be sure to stay with the flock for our own protection. Are there people we need to contact who we think may have wandered off? Maybe message them right now?

The job of a shepherd was:

- To retrieve any strayed animals
- to feed the sheep
- to provide a good, safe pasture or place for them
- to gather them in his arms and gently lead them
- to look after them when they had diseases
- to protect them from prey, from fiercer animals

Doesn't that sound good? The Top Shepherd came to rescue us, He looks after us, He protects us and helps us find rest for our souls. Life carries on as normal, but on the inside we're different. What a beautiful thing to be shepherded by Jesus. Discuss.