

Consider It

How does having a right perspective on God change the way you might respond to someone who wants to harm you?

Why do you think someone would be harmed for doing what is right? How is suffering as a Christian different from losing cultural influence and power as a Christian?

How did people face persecution in the following Scriptures?

- Acts 7:55-60
- Daniel 3:13-18
- Hebrews 11:35-40

Think about a time that you had the opportunity to explain your trust in Jesus. What was the focus of your answer?

How would you respond to someone who said that neither Jesus nor the disciples thought of Jesus as God?

How would you respond to someone that says the Bible cannot be trusted because it is full of errors and contradictions?

How does Peter say we ought to answer those who accuse us for our hope in Jesus?

Verses 19-20 present some very tricky ideas to unpack. If you want to speculate on the full meaning, I would encourage heavy commentary reading. That being said, what was the condition of the world during the days of Noah? What was God doing?

How does Peter speak about the role that baptism has in salvation, and what actually powers our salvation?

Live It

What are some ways that you can prepare this week to give an answer for your hope in Jesus's resurrection?

Who is someone that you can contact or meet with this week to encourage through his or her hardship or suffering?

Understanding Your Place in This World

"Hope Vindicated Through Suffering"

1 Peter 3:13-4:2

August 15-16, 2020

*Vindicate me, O God, champion my cause against faithless people; rescue me from the treacherous, dishonest man.
Psalm 43:1 (TNK)*

Sermon Proposition

A follower of Jesus can have hope of vindication in suffering for the Gospel.

1) Hope was vindicated when King Ahaz was threatened

*"Do not fear what they fear, and do not dread it. The LORD Almighty is the one you are to regard as holy..."
"Isaiah 8:12-13 (NIV)*

2) Hope was vindicated when Noah was saved through the flood

*The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.
Genesis 6:5 (NIV)*

3) Hope was vindicated when Jesus triumphed over the grave

*And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.
Colossians 2:15 (NIV)*

Application: Though you suffer for righteousness, you can hope in Jesus' resurrection through your baptism into Jesus

*If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels
Mark 8:38 (NIV)*

Understanding Your Place in This World

Discussion Guide

"Hope Vindicated Through Suffering"

1 Peter 3:13-4:2

Read It

Read 1 Peter 3:13-4:2 together aloud.

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, 15 but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; 16 yet do it with gentleness and respect, 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. 18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, 19 in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, 20 because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. 21 Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him. 4:1 Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, 2 so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. (ESV)

Open It

When is a time that you wanted to be proved right?