

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

PURPOSE IN PAIN

1 PETER 5:1-14

MAY 7, 2023

In the midst of suffering, the Christian should...

1. Be humble (5:1-7)
2. Be watchful (5:8-9)
3. Be ready (5:10-11)

QUESTIONS:

1. Although Peter is writing to primarily Gentile believers in 1 Peter, he regularly harkens back to Old Testament language and characters connected with ethnic Israel and applies it to his New Testament audience (1:1; 1:10-12, 1:16-17; 2:6-11; 3:6, 20; 4:18; 5:5, 13). What theological truth do you think Peter seeks to communicate by doing this?
2. When suffering or trials enter your life, what is your typical response? For example some people's instinct is to problem-solve, become anxious, feel angry, or find comfort in people or things. According to Peter, the Christian's response to suffering can be joy (1:6-8). Why is this possible?
3. Do you identify with either types of people addressed at the end of the sermon – those who have failed to humble themselves before God and those who have allowed suffering to define their trust in God? How does the gospel speak to the heart of these two types of people?
4. In what areas of your life do you seek after and desire exaltation? How might your representation of the gospel be damaged before others in this pursuit of self-exaltation?
5. In 5:6-8, Peter creates a stark contrast between God as a shepherd and Satan as a lion. What are some of the distinctions Peter intends to make here? How does the picture of Christ as a gentle "chief Shepherd" allow us to easily humble ourselves before him?