



6/12/26

On this week's episode of Chosen and Cherished, we talked about the greatest love of all. I'll give you one guess as to what that love is. 😊 If you'd like to listen to the podcast, here's the link... <https://summitpoint.org/chosen-and-cherished/>

*Blessings,
Jonna*

1 Peter 3:1-6

This next week we're going to be looking deeper into what Godly roles are, specifically for the wife. I know I've said it before, but I repeat it because my flesh will definitely take me in the wrong direction if I don't remember WHY God calls me to fulfill the role He has for me. My natural tendency is to think of submission as a swear word and a verdict of inferiority... something that would derail me because my biggest flesh struggle is the desire to know that I matter, that I'm valuable. That desire is very self-centered, and it can derail me and damage my relationships.

God is so good!!! He constantly reminds me that I'm valuable to HIM, and that's the most important value I can have. He shows me that submission takes courage, humility, and strength... as it did for Jesus. Jesus was not inferior, and He submitted to the will of the Father. By the power of the Holy Spirit, He helps me to do the same. He promises that when I humble myself before Him, He exalts me... that's the only exaltation I need. With that in mind, I want to see what I can learn from 1 Peter 3:1-6.

Before I go too far, I need to see that the first verse starts with the word "likewise." So, clearly I'm starting in the middle of a conversation. What is "likewise" referring to? If I look back at 1 Peter 2:21-23, I see that "likewise" is telling me to follow in Jesus' footsteps... "For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in His steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in His mouth. When He was reviled, He did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but continued entrusting Himself to Him who judges justly."

This is speaking to enduring suffering AS JESUS DID. Marriage, like all of life, will always include some level of suffering. Jesus wants me to follow His example in how He handled suffering. He says He suffered FOR me and specifically left me an example... SO THAT I would follow His example. He wants me to suffer well.

What was His example??? He didn't measure His behavior according to my behavior. He was not a thermometer. He was a thermostat. He didn't take the temperature of the room and match what others were doing. He set the temperature and did not react according to what others were doing. He NEVER committed a sin. NEVER. He NEVER spoke lies. NEVER. He NEVER retaliated, abused, or insulted others even when they reviled, abused, and insulted Him. NEVER. He NEVER threatened others, even when they caused Him to suffer! NEVER. How in the world did He do that??? Well, it was NOT according to the world. His resolve was supernatural. He ENTRUSTED Himself to the Father who judges justly. He handed Himself over to the will of the Father and said, "Not My Will, but Yours be done" no matter what.

LIKEWISE... in the same way Jesus did... I am called to not retaliate when reviled, not threaten when I suffer, and CONTINUALLY entrust myself, hand myself over to the Father... believing with full confidence that He judges justly. God sees me in my suffering. He knows what I'm going through when I go through it. He promises that none of my suffering will be wasted when I entrust myself to Him. And He judges according to what is RIGHT with the whole picture in mind, seeing even what I can't see.

"Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, when they see your respectful and pure conduct."

Jonna, without retaliation and without threatening, as you entrust yourself CONTINUALLY to the Father, be subject... submit to your OWN husband. Now, this passage is specifically speaking about husbands who "do not obey the word", who are not saved. But I think the principle of this passage applies even with believing husbands who are not abiding in Christ faithfully, who are not obeying His word fully. In truth, none of us abide in Christ faithfully without fail. None of us always seek to follow His example.

God is calling me NOT to revile my husband or make him suffer if he's not obeying the word. I am NOT his Holy Spirit. Nagging him into doing what I think he should is a clear sign that I'M not following Jesus' example. I need to get MY heart right and get the log out of my own eye first!!! Do I really trust the Lord to judge justly???

So... what does this look like? I think the principle I've tried to follow and teach as a mom with children also applies here. "They will learn much more from what you model than what you say." To continue to speak words to my husband like, "This is what you have to do to be a good husband" will only damage the relationship. It's not loving... and it's very arrogant. But to model the love of Christ to my husband without reviling and threatening words will show him pure honor and respect... just like Jesus has done with us.

For a woman whose husband is not saved, expecting him to act like someone who's saved is crazy. I can't expect someone to act like a person who can only honor God by the power of the Holy Spirit when the Holy Spirit is not dwelling in him. The ONLY way for a woman to do this is by keeping her eyes on Jesus' example and allowing the Holy Spirit full access to her heart as she continually entrusts herself to the Father.

For a woman whose husband is a somewhat rebellious believer, I think the answer is something she (and I) should be doing first and foremost in her marriage. Pray scripture for him and for our marriage. This is huge! It's one way I entrust my marriage to the Lord! To pray scripture for my husband and for our relationship is to pray the will of God and to hand our relationship over to His care. God knows best what we both need way better than I do. God uses my prayer not only to work on my husband's heart, but mine.

How do women sometimes try to take matter into their own hands especially when things are going wrong? Make it more about their appearance. "Maybe if I looked better, he would treat me better." But "charm is deceitful and beauty is vain" (Proverbs 31:30). That will get a woman nowhere. So, "Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear— but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious."

If I'm entrusting myself to the Lord, I'll understand that true beauty is what He calls beautiful... the hidden person of my heart... where my desires, feelings, and choices live. That doesn't mean I can't take care of myself. The Greek word for adorn is "cosmos." It means, don't let my appearance be my whole world. That's fleeting!

What God calls beautiful is a gentle and quiet spirit. He says this kind of beauty is IMPERISHABLE, incorruptible. Not just being gentle and quiet with my words... but in my spirit. That only comes from the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit transforming me. Gentleness is incorruptible... being humble and not harsh within my heart so that resentment doesn't just build up until I finally blow. A quiet spirit is a PEACEFUL spirit. When can I have a peaceful spirit even while being reviled and enduring suffering without retaliation? Only when the Holy Spirit has free access to my heart AS I ENTRUST MYSELF TO THE LORD. This kind of beauty is priceless to the Lord. His opinion is the one that matters the most!

I used to ignore the last 2 verses of this address to wives. I was offended. It says, "For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him Lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening." I WAS offended. Sarah called Abraham "lord" and obeyed him??? Yes, she called him lord... She respected his position as head of the home, the one in charge. She didn't call him LORD, but lord.

This is what I know it means and what I know it doesn't mean.

- *What it means... I am called to submit to husband even if he sins.*
- *What it doesn't mean... It doesn't mean I submit to my husband if he tells me to sin, because I submit to him AS TO THE LORD (Ephesians 5:22).*
- *Also... if my husband's sin is breaking the law, I do not protect him in that. Acts 5:1-11 speaks to this.*

This call to endure others' sin is true for ALL believers. Peter later says in 1 Peter 4:12-14 to ALL believers, "Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But REJOICE insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when His glory is revealed. If you are insulted (reviled, reproached) for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you." And 1 Peter 4:19, "Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will ENTRUST their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good." And then there's Proverbs 19:11, "Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense."

What is the key to this impossible call??? TRUST and HOPE. 1 Peter 3:5 says these holy women "HOPED in God". They were holy... devoted to God. Their confident expectation was that God IS the one who judged justly, that He sees everything, that He knows everything, and that He works all things together for our good... even things that in themselves are not good.

Peter closes this with saying, "You are her (Sarah's) children if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening." First, I am Sarah's child? Yes, in the same way that Paul talks about us being "sons of Abraham through faith in Christ" in Galatians 3. Through my faith in Jesus, with Abraham being the father of many nations and Sarah then being the mother, I am her child.

As her child, through my faith in Jesus, I am called to do good. What is good? Everything that pleases the Lord... everything done in faith... everything done as I hope in God.

I am not to be afraid of anything that is frightening??? How is that possible??? It is only possible when I put all my hope and trust in the Lord. It's like when Peter walked on the water to Jesus. As long as his eyes were on Jesus, he walked. As soon as his eyes diverted to the problem, the thing that was frightening, he became afraid and began to sink. I need to keep my eyes on Jesus... and know that even when I get afraid, I can cry out to Him as Peter did, and He will save me from drowning.

O Lord, please help me to walk in the footsteps of Jesus with my eyes set on Him, entrusting myself completely and continually to You regardless of the circumstances. Help me to hope in You with all my heart. The evidence of my trust and hope in You WILL BE FOUND IN HOW INTREAT MY HUSBAND. O Lord, please make me beautiful to You.