Week 4 - Lesson 2 **Don't act unbecomingly**

The challenge to live different is clear in this section of Peter's letter. A Chosen Generation is what he calls the followers of Christ. The following verses are from 1 Peter 2 The Message translation.

9 - 10 *But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God's instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you—from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted.*

THE KIND OF LIFE HE LIVED

18–20 You who are servants, be good servants to your masters—not just to good masters, but also to bad ones. What counts is that you put up with it for God's sake when you're treated badly for no good reason. There's no particular virtue in accepting punishment that you well deserve. But if you're treated badly for good behavior and continue in spite of it to be a good servant, that is what counts with God.

21–25 This is the kind of life you've been invited into, the kind of life Christ lived. He suffered everything that came his way so you would know that it could be done, and also know how to do it, step-by-step.

He never did one thing wrong,
Not once said anything amiss.

They called him every name in the book and he said nothing back. He suffered in silence, content to let God set things right. He used his servant body to carry our sins to the Cross so we could be rid of sin, free to live the right way. His wounds became your healing. You were lost sheep with no idea who you were or where you were going. Now you're named and kept for good by the Shepherd of your souls.[2]

In the video I made the mistake of saying if you suffer for doing good twice. The text actually says as stated above. What does it say counts in the eyes of God? (1 Peter 2:18-20)

1. David asked the Lord to create in him a clean heart but also for assistance in doing the right thing. How is this stated in Psalm 51:12?

[2] Peterson, E. H. (2005). *The Message: the Bible in contemporary language*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress.

We will need grace to persevere in the wilderness of trials. Read Deuteronomy 8:1 – 6 What do you observe about the reasons for Israel 's wilderness testing? How can you relate it to the purposes of your trials? In other words why does He allow trials?

The challenge to all of us when we are going through difficulty is to be thankful in all things. Many people misquote 1 Thessalonians 5 :16 - 19 Let's look a little closer:

16Rejoice always, **17** pray without ceasing, **18** give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. **19** Do not quench the Spirit. [3]

What are three thigs that are stated to do in verses 16 – 18?

_____vs 16

_____ vs 17

_____ vs 18

The verse that is usually misquoted is vs 18 many people say give thanks for all things. That is not the verse it says give thanks **in all things.** In other words when you are going through difficulty you **give thanks** that God is who He said He would be in your situation. If you are struggling with anxiety you thank God that He is your peace – Jehovah Shalom. If it is finances, you thank God that He is your provider – Jehovah Jireh. If it is your sorrow and depression you thank God that in His presence there is fulness of Joy. There is a pattern here that you can follow.

When we are not a thankful and grateful people and we murmur and complain what does vs 19 forewarn us of doing?

Take a few moments and ask the Lord to reveal to you what are the things that you've murmured and complained about recently. Prayerfully ask the Lord for grace to repent – change your way of thinking and speaking.

[3] *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*. (2016). (1 Th 5:16–19). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.