**August 8, 2021**

**“Following Jesus and the School of Hard Knocks”**

**Going deeper in 1 Peter 4:1-6**

**INTRODUCTION**

Peter has pointed to the Lord’s work through Noah during trying times. He showed how the Lord used these kinds of hard times and continues to be a source of salvation and hope.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.* 1 Jesus went through things like you are experiencing and more. He went through it without falling into sin. Because of Him you too can have the same attitude 2 so you no longer have to live your days consumed by earthly passions, but instead living for what God wants for you. 3 You have already spent enough of your life living in ways that were devoid of God, partying night after night, embarrassingly drunk, controlled by lust, and chasing false and empty idols. 4 Of course, your old friends are going to think it is strange that you are not jumping into the same old things with them and they may heap abuse on you, 5 but you don’t need to worry about that because they will have to explain themselves to the One who is the judge of the living and the dead. 6 For this reason the gospel was preached to even those who are now dead (just as all humanity will die), so they still had the chance to get in on the life that is given through the Spirit of God.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. Besides Jesus’ death on the cross what other kinds of suffering did Jesus experience in his time on earth? How might that be similar to what believers in Peter’s time were experiencing?

2. What enables us to have the same attitude as Jesus?

3. How can suffering change a person’s life for the better? How has that been true for you?

4. Why would the change in the lifestyle of Christians have been so upsetting to non-believers?

5. Have there been times when someone “heaped abuse” on you for following the way of Jesus? How did you respond?

6. How would you advise a new Christian who was experiencing hard things and getting abuse from others?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Thank the Lord that because He became human, He knows and understands your struggles.

\*Ask Jesus to help you have the same attitude He has in all you face today.

\*Pray for any who have disrespected you for following Jesus and His way.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

The Lord Jesus has called you into a new way of life. You are called to live with integrity even when those around you do not. Will you be relying on the Holy Spirit to show grace and respect to those around you even if they do not show you grace and respect?