

1 Peter 2:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:

Analysis

Peter describes Christ's response to injustice, providing pattern for believers. "Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again" (hos loidoroumenos ouk anteloidorei)—when verbally abused, didn't return abuse. "When he suffered, he threatened not" (paschōn ouk ēpeilei)—during torture, made no threats of vengeance. Instead: "but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously" (paredidou de tō krinonti dikaiōs)—entrusted His case to God who judges justly. Christ didn't seek self-vindication but trusted Father's righteous judgment. This exemplifies trust in God's justice amid human injustice, refusing retaliation while confident in ultimate divine vindication.

Historical Context

Jesus's trial involved false testimony, mockery, physical abuse, and crucifixion. Throughout, He maintained dignified silence or spoke truth without threatening captors (Matthew 26-27). This fulfilled Isaiah 53:7 ("He was oppressed... yet he opened not his mouth"). Peter personally observed this, having denied Christ while Jesus faced accusers. Christ's non-retaliation provided model for persecuted believers: trust God's justice rather than seeking personal revenge. Early church's non-violent response to persecution (refusing to fight back while maintaining faith) eventually won Roman respect and legal protection.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus's example of non-retaliation while trusting God's judgment challenge your response to unjust treatment?
2. What does it mean practically to 'commit yourself' to God who judges righteously when facing injustice?

Interlinear Text

ὃς	λοιδορούμενος	οὐκ	ἀντελοιδόρει	πάσχων	οὐκ
Who	when he was reviled	not	again	when he suffered	not
G3739	G3058	G3756	G486	G3958	G3756
ἠπειλεί	παρεδίδου	δὲ	τῷ	κρίνοντι	δικαίως·
he threatened	committed	but	G3588	himself to him that judgeth	righteously
G546	G3860	G1161		G2919	G1346

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 53:7 (Parallel theme): He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

1 Peter 4:19 (Parallel theme): Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

Hebrews 12:3 (Parallel theme): For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

Psalms 37:5 (Parallel theme): Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

Acts 4:29 (Parallel theme): And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,

2 Timothy 1:12 (Parallel theme): For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

Psalms 10:14 (Parallel theme): Thou hast seen it; for thou beholdest mischief and spite, to requite it with thy hand: the poor committeth himself unto thee; thou art the helper of the fatherless.

Psalms 31:5 (Parallel theme): Into thine hand I commit my spirit: thou hast redeemed me, O LORD God of truth.

Luke 23:46 (Parallel theme): And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.

2 Timothy 4:8 (Righteousness): Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.