

1 Title Slide

2 Tonight's Scripture

- Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened." But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. It is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. (1 Pet 3:13–17 NIV)

3 Introduction

- Ketchup is the quintessential condiment found in nearly every American refrigerator and on every table in almost all American diners.
- We put it on everything from eggs to fries to hot dogs, and the thicker the better.
- It takes some well-placed whacks on the bottle or a healthy squeeze to get it moving from bottle to plate, but, as the old commercial jingle said, "Anticipation" makes it worth the wait.

4 Kê-chiap

- However, for more than 200 years, ketchup was a disgusting, toxic mix of stuff that many of us would never put in our mouths.
- Originally produced by the Chinese and called kê-chiap, it contained a mixture of fish innards and salt stuck in a jar and left to ferment in the sun.
- British sailors acquired a taste for this strange condiment after encountering it in Fiji in the 16th century, and brought it back home to England, where they added beer to the ingredients.
- Eventually, they replaced the fish guts with anchovies, which were then in turn replaced by walnuts and then mushrooms.
- It wasn't until the early 19th century that tomatoes got put into the mix, and then only after the Western world finally became convinced that tomatoes were not poisonous as originally thought.

5 Kê-chiap

- However, eating kê-chiap in those days was a risky proposition.
- There were no labels and there was no telling what you would bring home to eat.
- In fact, putting ketchup on anything was the equivalent of pouring toxic waste on it.
- According to cookbook author Piere Blot, Ketchup in 1866 was often, "filthy, decomposed and putrid."
- In fact, highly flammable coal tar was added to the mix to enhance the red color.
- In an 1896 study, for example, 90 percent of commercial ketchups were found to contain "injurious ingredients that could lead to death."

6 Henry J. Heinz

- In 1876, Henry Heinz bottled his first batch of tomato ketchup.
- The company's founder was a morally strong man who believed that "heart power is better than horsepower," and worked hard at developing a safe environment and process for ketchup to be produced in a way that was pure, enjoyable and transparent.
- His factory was spotless. His workers were encouraged to be meticulous about cleanliness, and Heinz rewarded them with fresh uniforms, free laundry, free life insurance and health care, athletic facilities, a swimming pool and even an in-house manicurist to make sure that every worker's nails were immaculate.

7 Transparency

- Heinz was so focused on purity and transparency that he refused to bottle his ketchup in the opaque brown bottles that were common at the time, choosing instead to use clear glass bottles as a way of demonstrating the product's purity to the public.
- Heinz even opened his factory to 30,000 visitors per year so they could see that the company had nothing to hide.
- "It's always safe to buy the products of an establishment that keeps its doors open," he once wrote.
- By 1906, Heinz was selling five million bottles of preservative-free ketchup every year, and chances are that the next transparent bottle of ketchup you reach for in 2014 still has the Heinz label on it.

8 Transparency

- Henry Heinz built a lasting legacy based on transparency, earning the trust of consumers because he focused on purity and quality and hid nothing from them.
- That clear, quality bottle of ketchup, whether it's the traditional glass design or the squeeze bottle, is still something that people trust well enough to take for granted.
- The transparent character of H.J. Heinz is still reflected in every one of his products, even after his death in May of 1919.

9 Eager to do Good

- Heinz made ketchup, but he was even more concerned about making the world a better place.
- So then, we ought to ask ourselves some important questions . . .
 - Are we as "eager to do good," as Peter puts it in this week's reading? (v. 13).
 - Are we living lives that are equally transparent, "doing what is right" no matter what it might cost us? (v. 14).
- In his first epistle, the Apostle Peter offers us some advice on how to live the Christian life in such a way that every one who sees us will know exactly what's inside.

10 Context of 1 Peter

- Peter is writing to churches in Asia Minor who are undergoing a great period of distress and persecution for their faith.
- Their environment stinks worse than fermented fish guts, and they're suffering in a world where the hidden agendas and filthy tactics of their opponents are "injurious ingredients that could lead to death."
- Rather than retaliate or turn up their noses at this situation, Peter encourages the churches to live lives of purity in the midst of suffering, "keeping a clear conscience so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander" (v. 16).

11 **Context of 1 Peter**

- Indeed, Peter says, "even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed" (v. 14).
- The real test of the Christian life is the ability to stay pure and transparent, even when others are trying to dump the spiritual equivalent of toxic coal tar into your life.
- Suffering is inevitable in the Christian life, but the way we react to it makes all the difference.

12 **Last Week's Sermon**

- In fact, last week's speaker, Rick Clendenen said almost the same thing when he said, . . .
 - "Life is not what happens to us, but what happens in us during times of trials."
 - "God hasn't promised us a trouble free life, but help us in the midst of trouble."
 - "Our faith and attitude during these times of trouble will determine if we will grow or not grow spiritually."

13 **Producing Fruit**

- In fact, in reading through the New Testament it's clear that God somehow uses (but not causes) suffering to produce something in us.
- In Romans 5:3, for example, Paul says that suffering produces endurance, endurance produces character and character produces hope.
- Jesus said that we should rejoice when we suffer, because it means that we're representing him and we're coming closer to the kingdom (Matthew 5:10-11).
- Somehow, in a counterintuitive way, suffering can wind up producing the best in us.

14 **Ketchup Under Stress**

- We only need to look at a ketchup bottle to be reminded of this.
- The classic glass Heinz bottle doesn't make it easy to pour out the ketchup.
- The thick tomato mixture is strengthened with xanthan gum, which changes its viscosity or flow rate under stress.
- That's why you have to whack a bottle of Heinz ketchup repeatedly to get the good stuff to come out, but it has to be done correctly.

15 **The Pounding of Trials**

- The pounding of persecution and suffering can produce the same effect in us.
- It can either cause us to stiffen, or it can trigger a flow of the fruit of the Spirit in us that can season the world (Galatians 5:22).
- Peter says that this is exactly what happened with Jesus, who suffered for our sins on the cross and yet produced the effect of bringing people to God (v. 18).
- When we "sanctify Christ as Lord" in our hearts and respond to suffering by giving an account of this hope in Christ that is within us with "gentleness and reverence," we produce the kind of fruit that is transparently clear in conscience, and pure in heart, life and motive (vv. 15-16).

16 **Transparency**

- When we go through trials, people see what's inside us, whether we like it or not.
- For instance . . .
 - Have a referee make a bad call against our beloved Kentucky basketball team and you'll see what's in most of us very quickly.
 - Have someone to cut us off in traffic and you'll see what is in us as well.
- In other words, people see what in us the most in how we respond to disappointment, frustration, even persecution.

17 **Sportsmanship**

- After a discouraging loss to Kentucky recently, Louisville guard Russ Smith did something that has earned the respect of many.
- Russ Smith went into the Kentucky locker room and shook every player's hand.
- The headlines the next day read, "Russ Smith is a Class Act."
- Comments from Kentucky fans on the Internet were . . .
 - "That guy is alright in my book, I hope he finds a niche in the NBA, it seems he deserves it."
 - "He truly is a classy young man and a great sportsman."
 - "What a great guy!"

18 **Peter's Advice**

- The key to us doing what is right and not getting upset in frustrating situations and circumstances is found in verse 15, when the Apostle says.
- But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. (1 Pet 3:15 NIV)
- Who should know more about dealing with emotional reactions than the Apostle Peter?

- Wasn't he the one who cut off someone's ear in the garden of Gethsemane?
- Wasn't it Peter, who was bold enough to rebuke Jesus and tell Him to avoid going to the cross?
- Wasn't it Peter, who boasted that He was better and more loyal than all the other disciples?
- So then, when Peter tells us how to do what is right in a frustrating situation, we should listen?

19 Peter's Advice

- So then, what does it mean to “set in our hearts Jesus Christ as Lord?”
- Basically, it means to make Jesus Christ the center of our lives and the Lord on how we respond to all of life's situations. (WWJD)
- In other words, when we are stressed out and at our wit's end, we measure our response according to God's will.
 - We do not pay back evil with evil or insult with insult (1 Peter 3:9). Instead, we overcome evil by doing good. (Rom. 12:17, 21)
 - As we do this—keeping a clear conscience before both man and God, we will grow exponentially and because we don't give in to fear or anxiety like most people do, they'll notice we're different.
- This is why in the second half of 1 Peter 3:15, the Apostle Peter encourages us with the following command, Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. (1 Pet 3:15 NIV)

20 Our Hope

- Our hope is the inheritance we will one day receive as the reward for our faith.
- While some of this inheritance will come in this age—the majority or mother load will come in the age to come.
- This is what keeps us from becoming too despondent when things don't work out as we want. Our reward in heaven is safe and secure.
- When people see we don't get all upset as they do, it causes them to wonder and when they wonder they ask questions and when they ask questions, we should be ready to give them an answer for the hope in which we have.
- So then, as we set in our hearts Jesus Christ as Lord, people will notice that there is something different about us and will ask us why.

21 Conclusion

- As a Ketchup bottle reveals what's in it, so do trials reveal what is in us too.
- If what comes out is yucky and we don't like it and others don't like it as well, then we may want to reset in our hearts Jesus Christ as Lord.
- When we measure our responses to how Jesus would want us to respond, people will see something different in us and it will get their attention for sure.

- So then, let us be a witness that Jesus is Lord and show them that Jesus is Lord even of our hearts, emotions, and feelings as well.
- Our hope of eternal glory should produce in us the will to set in our hearts Jesus Christ as Lord. Amen!