

## 1 Peter 2:11-12 Sojourners, Soldiers, and Ambassadors

<sup>11</sup> Beloved, I beg *you* as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, <sup>12</sup> having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by *your* good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.

**What we have before us today is what we might call a wonderful summary of the life that God has called us to.**

A) I'll give it to you in three statements:

- Live like a sojourner,
- Fight like a soldier
- Behave like a representative.

B) Notice v.11 again

<sup>11</sup> Beloved, I beg *you* as sojourners and pilgrims

C) Don't skip over that first word – Beloved - See - To live well, we first have to know who we are:

D) "beloved," *Beloved* means we're loved by God – greatly loved by God

**Beloved "sojourners" and "pilgrims." The word *sojourners* literally means *alongside the house*.**

A) You and I live alongside people who make this world their home, but it's not our home.

B) But we are called to live alongside of them.

**A vagabond has no home; a fugitive is running from home; a stranger is away from home; a pilgrim is heading home. Warren Wiersbe**

A) Pilgrim – someone on a journey heading home

B) A sojourner is one who is living alongside people who believe this place is home

C) So Pilgrim/ Sojourner are 2 words that capture the way you & I are meant to relate to people in this present world.

**See if you really believe that this world is not your home.**

A) You really believe that eternity is real – really believe in forever – that later is longer.

B) That belief is going to affect the way that you live in this world –

1) the way that you approach life on this planet.

C) Here is what happens when you embrace your calling as a sojourner and a pilgrim –

1) your pursuits change, priorities change, perspectives

**D) Everything is viewed in light of eternity –**

1) everything is viewed with this truth in mind – this \_\_\_\_\_ is temporary. But people are eternal

**When my wife and I first got married – and we would go on a trip somewhere –**

A) When we arrived at the hotel – the first thing I would do is unpack my suitcase.

B) Clothes in draws – closet – even if 1-2 nights

C) I did that partly because I like to be organized.

1) For me I needed that out of the Suitcase.

D) But I think there is another underlying reason I do that - No matter how short the stay

1) I want it to be as comfortable as possible – to feel as much like home as possible.

**My wife on the other hand – would often leave her stuff in her suitcase -**

A) She would say – We are only here for a day or two no need to unpack. - This is temporary

B) Well when it comes to staying in a hotel somewhere –

1) there is not a right and wrong approach to unpack or not unpack

C) But when it comes to living in this world – my wife's approach is the more biblical one –

1) don't get too comfortable here –

**D) This is a temporary dwelling place. – Pilgrims here – sojourners here**

**This life is a journey, this life is a passage, this isn't home /– home is coming!**

A) Guys this is why I think that we can often wrestle with these feelings of discontentment in this life.

B)Have you ever had this happen – you go on vacation somewhere – you have an amazing time.

C)Or maybe you are fortunate to go to some amazing place like Hawaii – you have this incredible time.

D)You come home after that amazing week – instead of feeling a sense of gratitude –  
1)you get a sense of discontentment

**E)Literally thinking – that was great – but I wonder what else is out there?**

1)See a pic on SM - you wonder what it would have been like – if we went here instead?

**Have any of you ever dealt with that or thought that?**

A)Listen that doesn't make you evil – makes you normal

B)The Bible says that God has put eternity in our hearts –

1) A deep longing from the Holy Spirit – **THIS IS NOT IT!**

**C)Or Have you ever experienced this – you go on a retreat – Amazing time with God! – meets you!**

**D)Or you come out to a magnify night – God meets you –**

1)really ministers to your heart in worship. – Satisfied – content – blessed

E)You wake up the next day – Wrestling with discontentment all over again

1)Why does that happen?

**I think it is the Holy Spirit's way of nudging your heart toward this reality –**

A)As awesome as that was – that is not heaven!  
That was just a taste of what is to come.

B)My wife is baking – smell – or gives me one cookie – You can't have anymore until we get to.....

1)Taste – I am expectantly discontent - I am waiting with expectancy for what is coming.

C)The Lord is doing that all the time in our heart – This is not it! – The best is yet to come.

D)You are pilgrims and sojourners here – Your discontentment is normal –

1)Don't get too comfortable here

**But here is what we MUST realize.**

A)Everyone around us who doesn't know Jesus is wrestling with that same discontentment too!

**B)But they don't know where to turn – so they keep searching for contentment in places, pleasures,**

1)pursuits, people – relationships

C)But no matter where they turn – nothing brings lasting contentment - keep coming up empty –

1)they remain unsatisfied – **Mick was right can't get no..... tried and tried – can't get no**

D)The Answer is in Jesus – the answer is in the reality of heaven –

1) the answer is – Later is longer – eternity is real

**So Peter says – we need to live like Pilgrims and sojourners as we come along side other travelers**

A)See us living in freedom because we are not so attached and tied down to things in this world

B)We live as Christ followers who realize – things are temporary – people are eternal.

C)There is that saying – You can't take it with you but you can send it ahead – How do you do that?

1)How send it ahead – By investing in things that are eternal? – **People are eternal!**

**Now living as a pilgrim and a Sojourner is easier said than done**

A)Which is why the next thing Peter tells us is so important? – **Fight like a Soldier**

**I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,**

B)Warren Wiersbe said the Christian life is not a playground but a battleground –

1)the sooner we realize that the better.

C)We cannot live with a peacetime mentality because the war still goes on.

D)We are in a War! – Our battle is 3 fold – We fight – the world, our flesh, and the devil.

**If we are in the world living in these fleshly bodies but there is no Devil – battle is far easier**

A)No tempter!

B)Or if we are in these bodies and the Devil is there but we are just in space –

1)Nothing to tempt us with

C)The combination of the three – The Devil uses the things of the world to appeal to our flesh

1)Been that way since the beginning – Garden – Eve forbidden fruit – It was desirable to her eyes

**Peter says -Abstain from fleshly lust – ESV passions of the flesh - that war against the soul.**

A)What's a passion? A passion is a powerfully motivating, emotionally laden desire.

**There is a war of desire that is fought on the turf of your heart; it is a fight for the control of your soul.**

A)What is the purpose of war?

B)War only has one purpose – winning - and winning only has one purpose - control.

C)Galatians 5 – **The flesh and the Spirit are at war with one another** – Man with two dogs.... who Wins ... one I feed the most

D)Who is going to get control? Flesh or Spirit?

1)Who are you feeding the most?

**We live in a world of seduction, in a world of temptation**

A)Where those seductive voices and those temptations are vying for our attention/affections

B)The Devil will appeal to good and natural desires – tempt us to indulge them way that is unnatural.

C)Example: Desire for food – God made food to be enjoyed – **Steak – Kill and eat!!!!!!**

1)But the temptation is to over indulge – gluttony – sin leads to control – controlled by that appetite

**Or take the desire for Sex – Beautiful wonderful**

A)God designed for men and women to enjoy sexual intimacy. - Read Song of Solomon

**B)But it is to only be enjoyed in the realm of the marriage bed! – Keep pure – but active**

1)Don't deprive each other

C)But Satan and the system of this world has sought to demean sexual intimacy – hookups – no strings

1) Self sex and pornography

D)God says – He who commits sexual immorality sins against their own body

1)Giving away a part of themselves that they will never be able to get back again – peeling an onion

E)Again it leads to control – people seeking to find pleasure and worth – from sexual immorality

1)Sex addicts

**“A desire for even a good thing becomes a bad thing when that desire becomes a ruling thing. Because our hearts must only be ruled by King JESUS.”** Paul Tripp

**Desire to be productive – another good desire –**

A)God made man with the intent work hard –

B)But we get tempted to cut corners or cross over lines to get ahead –

1)we end up in bondage to a pattern of behavior – lies

C)A clean house- is a good thing – but it can rule you

1)it gets to the point where your family is so uncomfortable at home –

**D)They don't want to be home – because if things get messed up mom gets all bent out of shape.**

**Ministry – serving Jesus is a great Desire –**

A)Unless it becomes the ruling thing – finding my identity in what I am doing for Jesus

B)Instead of who I am in Jesus! – Problem

C)So we need to fight like a soldier to keep the main thing the main thing!

1)Jesus front and center

**<sup>3</sup> You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of *this* life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier. 2 Tim 2:3-4**

**A)Enduring hardship – part of the war – not getting entangled – staying focused. Please our King**

**B)Aware that we are in a battle – on guard –**

**C)Talking this week with staff – Don't be ignorant of the schemes of the Devil – Attacks in 2 ways**

**1)Frontal - Attack where weak -**

**D)Back door attack where you are strong – A strength can become a double weakness – why?**

**1)Tendency to drop our guard**

**E)Always being aware – of the battle –**

**1)So we are to Fight like a soldier**

**Now the 3<sup>rd</sup> mentality that Peter wants us to have is to behave like a representative. <sup>12</sup> having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.**

**A)We behave like a Rep of Jesus -by having honorable conduct among the gentiles/ unbelievers**

**B)Honorable is praiseworthy – beautiful.**

**C)And The word AMONG - is a key word passage– Among = in the company of.**

**So the Lord is saying to us – You are pilgrims – this world is not your home – you're on a journey**

**A)But you are also sojourners – living among the house – those who make this world their home**

**B)You are living among them as a rep of me –**

**1)Old adage – you are -In the world but not of it/ In it Rubbing shoulders – SALT AND LIGHT**

**C)Light has to be seen – Salt has to be tasted.**

**So When you are in the company of unbelievers, you behave in a praiseworthy way -**

**A)a way that reflects Jesus and honors Jesus**

**B)Live an exemplary life among the unbelievers so that your actions will refute their prejudices. MSG**

**1)That is really what Peter has in mind here –**

**C)Unbelievers have prejudices and preconceived ideas about Christians**

**1)They have seen Christians who didn't represent Jesus well – Sort of put us all into that category.**

**D)Or because of their view of God – they just assume this is how we are going to treat them.**

**E)But when they get close enough to see what we are really like –**

**1)they have a completely different perspective**

**It has been interesting for us as a church in this season of Covid –**

**A)What is the best representation for church – Meet in person or not? Best witness?**

**B)After talking with city officials – and Sheriffs – the rise of domestic violence – drug alcohol abuse**

**1)Suicide –**

**C)We felt strongly led of the Lord to be open – to be physically available to meet needs.**

**Interesting that we have received nothing but positive feedback from unbelievers – appreciative**

**A)They Drive by here on Wed – morning – line of 500 cars -getting food for their families – honk**

**B)The response from our community has been we appreciate you guys.**

**C)The only negative feedback we have received and it has been minimal – has been from Christians**

**D)I get the concern – let's just agree to disagree and rejoice that people are being saved –**

**1)Lives touched**

**This is Peter's point – you are sojourning alongside unbelievers – people attached to this world**

**A)But you are living as someone who is committed to another world – Knows – Souls are what matters**

**B)When they see you living as people who are concerned for others – loving others**

**1)Being there for others – something happens – their perspective changes**

**C)In fact do you notice the transformation that is implied in the text?**

when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by *your* good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.

**They start off with their prejudices – their preconceived ideas – of what a Christian is like –**

**A)they speak against you – evil doers in their eyes**

**B)But then they get to know you – see your works – something changes – they actually get saved –**

**1)That is actually what is implied in this phrase they glorify God in the day of visitation.**

**C)See Unbelievers don't glorify God! Believers do!**

**D)Peter is implying here that your conduct amongst unbelievers can have a transforming affect on their lives –**

**1)They go from being those speaking against Christ and His Church**

**E)To those who are glorifying Jesus and his Church!**

**I want to close with this analogy. – Brings what Peter is saying here altogether.**

**A)When I go on a mission trip it is usually an 8-12 day trip –**

**B)I go knowing that my time in that country is going to be temporary.**

**1)Knowing my time is short –**

**C)I want to maximize my time there in that country. – Mission trip – I am on a mission**

**Knowing that my time is short – Seeing the famous sites is not a priority – not on my radar –**

**A)If time permits for that to happen great – but it is not a focus – usually doesn't happen**

**B)I have been to 23 different countries and people always ask me – have you been here there – nope?**

**1)Not there as a tourist – I am there on a mission**

**C)Didn't go there for site seeing we went there for people – to bring Jesus to the people.**

**1)Encouraging and strengthening people who already know Jesus.**

**D)We go Not looking to get comfortable – living out of a suitcase – packed light only the essentials**

**E)We go expecting it to be sort of rough -**

**So our mentality – People – connecting with people loving on people – bringing Jesus to people.**

**A)Long days and nights – focused**

**B)Fully aware of the Battle – Prep our teams – the Devil is not happy that we are going to be there.**

**C)Very mindful – we are here to represent Jesus – here to represent this church we are working with**

**D)That is always my mentality when I am on a missions trip.**

**But here is what is interesting**

**A)How easily my focus changes the minute our plane lands once again in the USA –**

**B)immediately thinking comfort – Where is the nearest In and Out? Double Double animal style**

**C)Can't wait to get home – Comfort bed – my house.**

**D)My focus shifts from a temporary mindset to a more permanent mindset**

**E)Please understand what I am saying – nothing wrong with loving in and out –**

**1)Enjoying your home – Home can be a refuge and should be**

**But we are called to live on Mission – The Lord convicted me this week –**

**A)live a little bit more consistently – like I am on a mission trip**

**B)I am praying and asking Jesus to show me what that is supposed to look like for me personally**

**1)Encourage you to pray too!**

**In Closing – note this – You know who did this better than anyone? - Jesus**

**A)He was the ultimate pilgrim He said one day “birds have nests and foxes have holes, but the Son of Man didn't have a place to lay His head.”**

**B)Always moving never getting comfortable –**

1)He was willing to be uncomfortable here because he knew He was on Mission –

C)Here to accomplish redemption

**He was the ultimate representative of the Father** who had sent Him. Jesus would say again and again: “If you have seen me, you have seen the Father. I have come to do one thing. I only have one thing that I’ve come to do. I have come to do the Father's will.”

A)Always mindful of how this was going to reflect on the father

**B)He was the ultimate soldier.** He gave His life to conquer sin and death. Paul says in Colossians 2:15 “He disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.” NLT

C)Jesus came to set us free from the Penalty of sin

1)He took our place on the cross

D)He came to set us free from the power of sin  
Release us from the bondage

**You stuck in sin – Control – hold on your life**

A)Jesus can free you.

B)You are experiencing that discontentment in your heart – nothing can satisfy – JESUS DOES

C)Turn from Sin – turn to him – today