

Main Passage: 1 Peter 2:18-25

Theological Theme

Jesus serves as a model for us when we face unjust suffering.

Introduction

(?) What types of unjust suffering are recorded in Scripture?

(?) How did Jesus respond to unjust suffering in His own life?

1. Household Slaves and Masters (1 Peter 2:18-19)

Last week, we talked about submitting to authority, even when it is unfair. Starting with our passage this week, Peter broke down additional practical applications of this submission. In this section, he wrote that household slaves should submit to their masters' authority.

(?) What various aspects of injustice did Peter describe in these verses?

(?) How can enduring grief through unjust suffering bring glory to God?

(?) Why is it worth enduring suffering for the sake of Christ?

2. Christ's Example (1 Peter 2:20-21)

Peter went on to note that a person does not get any credit if they are beaten for wrongdoing. Peter wasn't saying that it was always fair or right that they were beaten, but consequences are natural when we do wrong. Peter told his audience to conduct themselves honorably (v. 12). It is not honorable to do wrong.

(?) What distinction did Peter make in verse 20? Why is this important?

(?) What are some reasons we might suffer that do not bring about good or glorify God?



What does it mean to be called to suffering (v. 21)? How does this apply to all Christians to some degree?

3. He Turned the Other Cheek (1 Peter 2:22-25)

Having said that the suffering household slave should follow in Jesus's footsteps, Peter went on to describe Jesus's suffering.



What stands out about the description of Jesus's suffering in these verses?



How are we reminded that no follower of Jesus is called to a level of suffering
He has not already surpassed?



What does it mean that we have died to sin and might live to righteousness?

Conclusion

There is no honor in suffering as a result of wrongdoing, but when we are honorable and suffer for it, God is pleased (not that we suffer, but that we respond righteously). Jesus unjustly suffered but did not fight back. Rather, He fully submitted to God the Father's will. We are called to do good, even when it's hard.



What can we learn about God and His character from our reading today?



How does it honor God when we submit in difficult situations? How does reflecting on the suffering Jesus endured in His earthly ministry impact the way we view suffering in our own lives?



How can endurance of righteous suffering give us opportunity to point others to Jesus?