

UNJUST SUFFERING



1 Peter 2:18-25, ESV – ¹⁸ Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. ¹⁹ For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²² He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³ When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Notes:

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SERMON-BASED STUDY

For the week of July 5, 2020
1 Peter 2:18-25

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

- 1 This weekend, we were reminded to honor God by submitting to our earthly authorities, regardless if they are gracious or unjust. Compare and contrast the characteristics of a gracious authority and an unjust authority.
- 2 Peter contrasts suffering for committing a sin and suffering for doing good. In either case, the person will suffer. Why is it better to suffer for doing good?
- 3 Jesus, himself, is our example of suffering for doing good. How is His example a reassurance for you? How is His example a challenge for you? How can we "rise to the challenge"?

DIGGING DEEPER

- A** **2 Timothy 1:8-9, 12, ESV** – ⁸ Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, ⁹ who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,
¹² which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me.
- 4 Paul's exhortation is to share in his suffering for the gospel. Why does Paul insist on followers of Christ sharing in his suffering?

5 What does it mean to “suffer for the gospel by the power of God”? What type of suffering was Paul enduring? Why?

6 What is Paul’s motivation to keep going in the midst of suffering? What lessons can we learn from his example?

B **Hebrews 4:14-16, ESV** – ¹⁴ Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

7 How is Jesus able to sympathize with us in our weakness and suffering? Why is it so important to remember that Jesus lived without sin?

8 What does it mean for us to “hold fast our confession”? How are you doing this area? Explain.

9 In the midst of our suffering and trials, we are to “draw near to the throne of grace.” What does that mean to you? How can we live out this principle in our daily lives?

TAKING IT HOME

Jesus lived a sinless life, yet He took our sins upon himself and paid the price for our sins. He rose from the dead and now sits at the right hand of the Father. From His throne, He calls us to follow His example. What trials or suffering are you facing right now? How are you handling the situation? Are you drawing near to the throne of grace? Are you responding in a manner similar to Jesus? Are there changes you need to make in the way you respond to suffering? Share with your group or accountability partner what God is laying on your heart and pray that you will follow Jesus’ example in suffering.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

Isaiah 53

Luke 6:27-28, 32-34

2 Corinthians 5:21

Philippians 2:14-16

Colossians 3:22

1 Timothy 6:1

Titus 2:9

Hebrews 12:3

1 John 3:5