

Sermon Discussion Guide

Date: September 1, 2024

Sermon Series: *Steady Sojourners*

Scripture: 1 Peter 2:18-25

Preacher: Brad



SUMMARY

Big Idea: God redeems us to Reflect Holiness While Suffering Unjustly

Living holy lives as exiles will inevitably bring about suffering in this world. Unjust suffering. Suffering for doing good, living honorably, and doing right in the sight of God. How are we to respond to such sorrows? Our flesh would have us doubt, blame, complain, despair, return evil for evil, threaten, and rebel against those in authority over us who mistreat us. But we are no longer slaves to our flesh, we are slaves to righteousness and slaves to God. Living for Him means we are being conformed to the image of His Son, the one who became a slave to all, suffered as our example, and satisfied God's wrath against us, to free us from the master of sin, and free us to live for Him in holiness. His life was given for our life; now our lives, in worship, are entrusted to Him, our Shepherd and Lord. The Gospel fuels both our obedience and our endurance, to remain steady as faithful witnesses to His excellencies.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

READ 1 Peter 2:18-25

1. What do you make of Peter commanding slaves to be subject to their unjust masters?
 - a. How does "with all respect (with all fear of God)" help us understand this command?
 - b. How does Peter use this initial command to introduce his main point of instruction in this passage?
2. What is the main, overarching call and teaching of these verses? How do you know?
3. What makes unjust suffering difficult for you? (maybe clarify unjust suffering with v20)
4. List out the reasons and motives Peter gives to enable us to endure unjust suffering.
 - a. Which one is most compelling and helpful for you?
5. In what way is unjust suffering a "gracious thing" (v 19 & 20)? How does it relate to 1 Peter 1:6-7, as well as God's mission?
6. If and when you experience unjust suffering, (or you can expand to any kind of suffering) what thoughts and actions are you tempted toward?
 - a. How does this passage address those?
 - b. Are there other Scripture passages that come to mind that help you?
7. In what ways is unjust suffering demonstrated to be part of God's plan in this passage?
 - a. What difference does that truth make?
8. For your persecutors which do you desire more - that they pay, or they meet the One who paid?
 - a. How can we cultivate the heart posture of "Father, forgive them"?
9. "Everyone must choose: Christ or Comfort." How does trying to hold onto both play out in your life?
10. How do v24-25 function as the best of news in this passage?