



Standing in the True Grace of God


Peter's Life, Letters and Lord

1 Peter 2:18-25

1. Make a list of all the things that come to mind when you think of the lifestyle and limitations of being a slave.
2. Reread 1 Peter 1 and 2. What would a slave who has just become a Christian learn about her new status and identity from these chapters?

Read 1 Peter 2:18-25.

3. What does Peter command slaves regarding both their behavior and attitude? (v. 18)
4. In what ways would a slave have to change her thinking and behavior in order to show *respect* for a *harsh* master? (1 Peter 2:1; 3:9; 3:15a; 4:19; 5:6-7; Col. 3:23-24;  * Rom. 12:17-21; Titus 2:9-10)
5. Describe the differences between the two types of suffering that Peter discusses here. (vv. 19-20)
6. Peter talks about “bearing up” and “enduring” suffering (vv. 19-20). What do these terms suggest to you about the nature of suffering and our response to it?
7. What do you think it means to be “conscious of God” in the midst of suffering (v. 19)? ( * Ps. 46:1-3; Lk. 22:39-44; Rom. 8:28; 2 Cor. 4:16-18)
8. Peter suggests that we should not be surprised when we “suffer for doing good” (v. 20). Why? (v.21)

*The  symbol indicates verses for further study.

9. Why are Jesus' trial and crucifixion the ultimate example of "unjust suffering" (v. 19)? (v. 22; Is. 53:8-9)
10. What was Jesus' response as he endured terrible suffering? (v. 23a; Mt. 27:12-14; Is. 53:4-7)
11. Jesus was outwardly silent as he suffered, but he was not being passive. What was he actively doing and most likely thinking about? (v. 23b; Ps. 22:1-21; Luke 23:46)
12. In what area of suffering or struggle do you need to "close your mouth" and trust God?
13. Jesus suffered in a way we will never suffer. In verse 24, Peter is describing a "great exchange": Jesus was sinless, but he was punished for our sins. We are sinful, but we receive blessings. What are these blessings? (v. 24; 2 Cor. 5:21)
14. How does Jesus' death free us from slavery and make us slaves again? (vv. 16, 24; Rom. 6:6-7, 19-23)
15. Why would this reminder that Jesus is the Shepherd be a comfort to Peter's readers? (v. 25; Is. 40:10-11; 53:6; Ps. 23; Jn. 10:11-15)

How is this comforting to you? Why?