

## Words to the Powerless

1 Peter 2:18-25

*In 1 Peter, “elect exiles” is the term Peter calls Christians (1:1). “Elect” means chosen and loved by God; He loved us first. Christ died for us! “Exiles” means we are not quite at home in this world, being far from our true home, which is with the Lord.*

Exiles are not known for their power. Sometimes their lack of freedom and state of powerlessness is extreme.

What words would you give to encourage and direct a ‘powerless’ person?

- Prison: Life sentence without parole. Hospital: a quadriplegic after being hit by a drunk driver.

Peter addresses powerless servants/slaves (2:18-20):

- Elsewhere Paul will say, if you can get your freedom, do so (1 Cor 7:21). But many couldn’t.
- Be subject... with all respect... (2:18) Similar to what we heard last week about the government (2:13-17)
- “But what if I’m beaten unjustly?”: How God transforms unjust suffering (2:18-20)

*The New Testament undermined the institution of slavery, leading to its eventual disappearance in the Christian world, but then to the rest of the world. Listen to the sermon “Slaves and Slavery”:  
<https://newlifeglenside.com/messages/slaves-and-slavery>.*

**The Cross of Christ** (2:21-25) provides **two** sources of power for the powerless:

### 1. A Moral Example (2:21-23)

- “...leaving you an example...” (2:21) But how was Jesus a moral example for us? (2:22-23)
  - Innocence (2:22-23)
  - Trust (2:23)

### 2. More Than an Example (2:24): A supernatural atonement for sinners!

- Making Payment (1:18-19): ransomed not with silver or gold but with the precious blood of Christ
- Taking Responsibility (1:24): he himself bore our sins in his body on the tree

The result of these two sources of power to the powerless: “...that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.” (2:24)

### Questions for Reflection and Application

1. Describe a person you know who is ‘powerless.’ Imagine trying to encourage them with the Gospel. How would you do it?
2. Read how Peter did it in 1 Peter 2:18-25 for servants/slaves.
3. Why would Jesus *as a moral example* be empowering for a servant or slave? (2:21-23)
  - a. How about for you?
4. But Jesus is also *more* than a moral example (2:24; see also 1:18-19). How so?
  - a. Why is this even more important than Jesus being a moral example?
5. Where in your life does this passage apply?