

I Peter 2:18-25

Submission, Suffering, and the Glory of It All

Our passage today deals with “servants.” Though it does not use the normal term for “slaves” (instead it uses a term for “a servant within a household”), slaves were used for various jobs in the Roman world. This passage would relate to those in slavery (though not endorsing the practice). It could also relate to us today in our places of employment.

> How is submission to be carried out, and to which type of master is submission to be given (v. 18)? Carried out with fear and respect, to all types of masters, whether they are gentle or harsh.

> Why is it admirable when we endure unjust suffering (suffering though we are doing good; vv. 19-20)? B/c anyone can take a punishment when they have done wrong, it's when we are unfairly treated and still show love that a true difference is seen in us.

> Though He was innocent, in what way did Christ respond to suffering (vv. 21-25)? He didn't fight back or threaten anyone. He rather put the situation in God's hands and focused on doing right.

Application

No one likes to be mistreated, but when we are, consider these thoughts concerning the response we should have:

- A proper response is often the opposite of how we may desire to respond and/or how the world would tell us to respond.
- A proper response is rooted in the heart, setting aside our desires, and replacing them with the patience Christ demonstrated.

Responding to a boss (or teacher) with disrespect, even if treated unfairly, basically says we are no different than those around us. We must follow Christ's example of patience. After all, He endured more than we ever will!