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1 Peter 2:18-25

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1 *18 Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward. 19 For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully. 20 For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. 21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:*

2 1 Peter 2:19-21

3

1 *22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: 23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: 24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. 25 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.*

2 1 Peter 2:22-25

4  **Today, it is all about rights**

- Everybody has rights in our society. Nobody talks about sacrifice, nobody talks about privileges, everybody talks about rights.
- We have women's rights, we have children's rights, we have homosexuals' rights. We even have the rights of those who have AIDS, the first disease with rights.
- We have ethnic rights. We have illegal immigrants' rights. We have students' rights. We have criminals' rights. And then we have employees' rights.
- We even have the rights of the homeless and the rights of the unemployed, abortion rights and on and on and on. Everybody is into rights.

5  **What happens when people don't get their rights**

- And if you don't get what you think is due, then you take it out on the society or whatever authority is over you.
- Strikes, protests, insurrections, rebellions against governments, against companies, walk outs, all kinds of common occurrences when people rebel against those over them who aren't giving them what they think they have a right to.
- And the underlying mentality is this ... everybody is equal, I have a right to everything and if you don't give me what I have a right to, I will rebel, I will fight back, I will lead a mutiny against you and I will harass you every way possible to get my rights. I will protest. I will strike. I'll do whatever it takes.

6  **A Household Slave**

- The word most often used for *slave* is *doulos* which means bond-slave. This is a slave who has voluntarily submitted to slavery out of love for the master. We are to

be bond-slaves to Christ.

- However, here the word is *oiketai* which refers to a household slave or domestic servant.
  - Servants and slaves made up a high percentage of the early Christian church.

7  **Only one Master that really matters**

1 Corinthians 7:21-24 -- *Were you called while a slave? Do not let it be a concern to you. But if indeed you are able to become free, rather make use of it. For the one who is called in the Lord while a slave is the Lord's freedperson. Likewise the one who is called while free is a slave of Christ. You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men. Each one in the situation in which he was called, brothers—in this he should remain with God.*

8  **Be subject out of fear or respect**

In the LEB, 1 Peter 2:18 says, *Domestic slaves, be subject to your masters with all respect not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unjust.*

- Other translations = *with all fear*
- But fear/respect of whom? God or human masters.
- Preceding verse answers the question.

9  **1 Peter 2:17**

- KJV -- *Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.*
- LEB -- *Honor all people, love the community of believers, fear God, honor the king.*
- So we are to obey the authorities in these four areas of our lives out of reverence to God.
  - Family
  - Government
  - Employment
  - Church

10  **Submission even to a crooked master**

- In verse 13, Peter instructed us to submit to the authority of man-made institutions for the Lord's sake.
- V. 18 -- While there were many good and considerate masters, Peter tells servants to be subject to their masters even if they are froward or crooked.
  - Peter uses the Greek word *skolios* from which we get scoliosis referring to an unnatural curvature of the spine.

11  **Christian mindfulness**

- There is a lot of emphasis today on mindfulness – being actively engaged in what is going on around you.
- But Christians need to be mindful of God.
- 1 Peter 2:19 -- *For this finds favor, if because of consciousness of God someone endures sorrows while suffering unjustly.* (LEB)

- We are to be mindful of God as we obey human authorities.

12  **The goal of God's glory**

- The Greek word *charis* – often translated grace – indicates favor on part of the giver and thanks on part of the receiver.
- It is a demonstration of the grace of God when someone continues to do right even while suffering unjustly.
- Jesus is the ultimate demonstration of this quality.

13  **Some problems we earn**

- Though we don't like to admit it, most of our problems are the result of our own poor decisions
  - Bad financial decisions like a budget that is out of whack or not understanding the difference between debt and leverage
  - Bad dietary decisions
  - Poor use of our time

When we suffer from these things, we are not glorifying the Lord

14  **Suffering that glorifies**

- If we endure sadness while suffering unjustly, this finds favor with the Lord. It glorifies God.
- Peter's readers are suffering because they are doing good (v. 20). Doing good is the bigger priority over being in subjection.
- Continuing to do good in spite of suffering is a testimony to unbelievers and encouragement to fellow Christians.
- It puts spiritual pressure on our authority.
  - (This principle will be seen again in chapter 3 inside the marital relationship.)

15  **Called to emulate Christ**

- The Williams translation begins verse 22: "*for you have been called for this purpose*" – referring to suffering for doing good
- We are called to follow Christ and emulate his character and conduct because he suffered for us.
- The word *example* (v. 21) refers to a writing or drawing that a student reproduces from an original.

16  **Adversity reveals character**

- The truest revelation of you and me comes in the time of our deepest trial.
- Trials reveal character. Adversity really feels virtue or the lack of it.
- The greater the trouble and the more severe the adversity, the pure the revelation of what we are.

17  **Isaiah 53:9**

*And he made his grave with the wicked, And with the rich in his death; Because he had done no violence, Neither was any deceit in his mouth.*

- Peter quotes this verse in 1 Peter 2:22.
- He emphasizes that Christ was completely innocent both in word and deed.
- He was innocent before his suffering and also throughout his suffering.

18  **Christ did not retaliate**

- The provocation to retaliate during Christ's arrest, trial and crucifixion was extreme.
- At any moment he could have summoned 10,000 angels to attack his persecutors. He would have been justified in doing so.
- But he suffered in silence committing himself to His Father.
- He had no sin but accepted the suffering as the judgment of His Father on our sins.

19  **Christ in His moment of greatest adversity**

Jesus' first words from the cross are *Father, forgive them for they know not what they do*

- He prayed for those taking His life!
- And He understood the wretchedness of the human heart. He understood our depravity. He knew they did not know His identity nor the enormity of their crime. They did not know they were killing the Messiah.

20  **Another example of forgiveness**

- When Stephen was being stoned, in Acts 7:60, he says this: *Lord do not hold this sin against them.*
- Like Christ, he prayed for forgiveness for those who are killing him.

21  **John MacArthur**

- Forgiveness is man's greatest need.
- Forgiveness is man's only way to enter into fellowship with God.
- Forgiveness is man's only way to be let out of hell.
- Forgiveness is man's only hope for blessing.
- Forgiveness is thus what Jesus prayed for. And the first important lesson which everyone needs to learn is that we are sinners and as sinners we are unfit for the presence of a holy God. And because of that it is vain for men to seek noble ideals. It is vain for men to form good resolutions.

22  **John MacArthur**

- It is vain for men to adopt formal excellent rules to live by until the question of sin has been dealt with.
- It is of no use to attempt to develop a beautiful character and aim to do that which will meet with God's approval while there is no relationship between you and God and while there is sin between you and God.
- It is like fitting shoes to feet that are paralyzed, or getting glasses for eyes that are blind, it is irrelevant.

23  **John MacArthur**

- The question of the forgiveness of sin is the most basic fundamental vital question

of all.

- It does not matter that I am highly respected in the circle of my friends if I am yet in my sins.
- It does not matter that I have attained a level of human goodness if I am still in my sins.
- And so the great truth here is that Jesus understood the deep need of man and He understood that the only way man could ever escape hell and know blessing was if His sins were forgiven, and it did not matter to Him that the sin for which He pleaded was the sin of killing Him.
- In fact, it was for the very sin of killing Him that He was dying.

24  **John MacArthur**

And what a beautiful picture do we see of the principle, He died praying for the forgiveness of those who sinned against Him. There, my friend, is a principle for living. There is a way to live your life, being more concerned with God forgiving the sin of the one who sinned against you than that you should receive vengeance. That's the way to live your life.

MacArthur, John F., Jr. John MacArthur Sermon Archive. Panorama City, CA: Grace to You, 2014. Print.

25  **Remember the goal**

*Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.*

- "Our sins" is near the start of the verse for emphasis. "He Himself" stresses Christ's personal involvement.
- The purpose for which Christ endured suffering was that we might die to sins and live to righteousness.
- Our healing was accomplished by the scourging and crucifixion of Christ.

26  **Today you will be with me in paradise**

- The second thing Jesus said on the cross was in response to one of the thieves hanging next to him.
- The thief asked, *Remember me when you come into your kingdom.* Jesus replies, *Today you shall be with me in paradise.*
- Jesus died bringing the truth of eternal life to a condemned soul.

27  **Straying sheep**

Isaiah 53:6 -- *All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned every one to his own way; And the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

- Once again, Peter refers to Isaiah and points out our similarity to straying sheep.
- Then he invokes the image from Ezekiel 34:11-16 of God being the shepherd and guardian of our souls. Christ provides matchless guidance and management of those who commit themselves to His care.

28  **Ezekiel 34:11-16**

*For thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I, even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out. As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day. And I will bring them out from the people, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land, and feed them upon the mountains of Israel by the rivers, and in all the inhabited places of the country.*

29  **Ezekiel 34:11-16 (cont'd)**

*I will feed them in a good pasture, and upon the high mountains of Israel shall their fold be: there shall they lie in a good fold, and in a fat pasture shall they feed upon the mountains of Israel. I will feed my flock, and I will cause them to lie down, saith the Lord God. I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away, and will bind up that which was broken, and will strengthen that which was sick: but I will destroy the fat and the strong; I will feed them with judgment.*

30  **What about you?**

- Do you understand that you can NEVER impress God enough by your behavior to enter the gates of heaven?
- You must simply acknowledge your sin and accept His death on your behalf.
- You must receive Christ in order to truly become a child of God.
- Then you can take advantage of His guidance and care.

31  **What about you?**

- Are you suffering?
  - Is it because of your own poor choices?
    - If so, are you repenting of that wrong behavior and making a course correction?
  - Or is it unjust suffering?
    - If so, are you responding in a way that brings glory to God and grace to others?