



Suffering Brings Blessing

1 Peter 3:8-18

Review from 1 Peter so far:

We have a “living hope” (1:3), an “imperishable inheritance” (1:3), are called to “love deeply, from the heart” (1:22), are a “holy priesthood” (2:5), and are “aliens and strangers in this world” (2:11).

Points to Remember:

- ✓ Return evil with blessing (verses 8-14)

- ✓ Point to Jesus when you are questioned (verses 15-16)

- ✓ This kind of suffering is a unique opportunity to display the goodness of God (verses 17-18)

Referenced Verses: Psalm 34:12-16, Matthew 5:43-48, Luke 6:27-29, Luke 23:34, John 15:20, Romans 12:14-18

Quotable: Don't let people pull you into their storm. Pull them into your peace.

FURTHER REFLECTION

- Watch this interview with Glady Staines, the widow of Graham Staines who was killed along with their two sons by extremist Hindus for their missionary work in east India. <https://bit.ly/2J8wQzo> or search “What happened to Gladys Stained following her husband's murder?” on youtube.
- Listen to the sermon by Skip Heitzig on youtube “When Holiness Meets Hostility.” <https://bit.ly/33ksP1M>

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What traits of righteous living in verse 8-12 do you most need to work on?
2. Often – though clearly not always – people appreciate your righteousness because it benefits them. When you are praised or thanked for your good works, how do you respond? How can your response point more to Jesus?
3. How are you likely to respond when you receive unjust suffering for the sake of righteousness?
 - a. With fiery comebacks and aggressive attacks.
 - b. Defensive justifications
 - c. Protect from damage, curl up, and hide
 - d. Courage to share Christ however you can
4. In the above question, why is that your “default mode” of response?
5. Share about someone you know who has received unjust suffering with grace and courage for Christ.
6. What do you think is going through the mind of the persecutor when the person they are persecuting responds with blessing?
7. As you direct the condition of this world and society, what are some examples of social persecution Christians must be ready to receive?
8. How can receiving unjust suffering display the goodness of God to a watching world?
9. Spend time praying about a vision for growth in this area.