

Submitting to Masters

I Peter 2:18-25

I Peter 8

Introduction

Last time we studied the idea of submitting to government. This time we want to think about the idea of slaves submitting to their masters.

The problem with this idea is that we no longer have slavery.

So instead, we want to shift the idea and the principles taught in our passage to our employment and think of the idea as submitting to our employer.

(Read I Peter 2:18-25)

I. When Is Suffering Commendable?

There is reward when we suffer for living for the Lord. There is no reward for suffering for our own wrong-doing.

(Read vss. 19-20)

God gives us the strength to endure the kind of suffering that we do for Him.

James 1:2-4- ***My friends, consider yourselves fortunate when all kinds of trials come your way, for you know that when your faith succeeds in facing such trials, the result is the ability to endure. Make sure that your endurance carries you all the way without failing, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.***

II. Christ Is Our Example

(Read vss. 21-23)

He is our example for everything in life. This includes the reality of suffering.

He showed us how to respond to it. We must endure and not retaliate.

Think about Jesus on the cross.

Did He suffer?

Did He whine around about it?

Did He call 10,000 angels to retaliate?

Could He have done so?

On the cross Jesus did not reply to any of the verbal abuse He received.

On the cross Jesus did what was right.

What is right? Whatever the will of the Father is- whatever it takes on our part.

Jesus, on the cross, did what was right and committed the rest to the Lord who is the righteous judge.

Isaiah 53:7-9- ***"He was treated harshly, but endured it humbly; he never said a word. Like a lamb about to be slaughtered, like a sheep about to be sheared, he never said a word. He was arrested and sentenced and led off to die, and no one cared about his fate. He was put to death for the sins of our people. He was placed in a grave with those who are evil, he was buried with the rich, even though he had never committed a crime or ever told a lie."***

II Corinthians 5:21- *Christ was without sin, but for our sake God made him share our sin in order that in union with him we might share the righteousness of God.*

III. The Tree

(Read vss. 24-25)

The tree = the cross.

Deuteronomy 21:22-23- *"If someone has been put to death for a crime and the body is hung on a post, it is not to remain there overnight. It must be buried the same day, because a dead body hanging on a post brings God's curse on the land. Bury the body, so that you will not defile the land that the LORD your God is giving you.*

Galatians 3:13- *But by becoming a curse for us Christ has redeemed us from the curse that the Law brings; for the scripture says, "Anyone who is hanged on a tree is under God's curse."*

Because Jesus was submissive when He was treated unfairly and went to the cross, we are saved, restored to spiritual health, and returned to safety.

Isaiah 53:4-6- *"But he endured the suffering that should have been ours, the pain that we should have borne. All the while we thought that his suffering was punishment sent by God. But because of our sins he was wounded, beaten because of the evil we did. We are healed by the punishment he suffered, made whole by the blows he received. All of us were like sheep that were lost, each of us going his own way. But the LORD made the punishment fall on him, the punishment all of us deserved.*

Conclusion

What does all of this have to do with submitting to those in authority over us at work?

Here is the principle:

Submitting to authority- even unjust authority- can and does have a positive witness for King Jesus. That is what we are here for.

Remember, this is speaking of suffering when we stand for Jesus. It does not apply to the suffering we have because we have acted stupidly or sinned.

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I. When Is Suffering Commendable?

(James 1:2-4)

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God gives us the _____ to endure the kind of suffering that we do for Him.

II. Christ Is Our Example

(Isaiah 53:7-9; I Corinthians 5:21)

He is our example for everything in life. This includes the _____ of suffering.

He showed us how to respond to it. We must _____ and not retaliate.

III. The Tree

(Deuteronomy 21:22-23; Galatians 3:13; Isaiah 53:4-6)

The tree = the _____.

Because Jesus was _____ when He was treated unfairly and went to the cross, we are saved, restored to spiritual health, and returned to safety.

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Possible Answers: stupidly, endure, employment, Lord, cross, submissive, strength, reality, positive