The Big Picture

*Finding God’s Purposes in 1 Peter*

Pastor Toby • Week 21 • 1/8/2023

**Seeing Slavery Differently**

1 Peter 2:18-25

Review: Spiritually Alive People…

* Silence the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by doing \_\_\_\_\_.
* Seek to lead people to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ God.
* As a result, we see our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ differently.

But What If You’re A Slave? (Are you exempt? NO…)

* Be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (2:18)
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ unjust suffering when it comes. (2:19-20)
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus as your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (2:21-25)
  + Suffering doesn’t give me an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_\_. (2:22-23a)
  + Justice always rests in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ hands. (2:23b)
  + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ unjust suffering is how God’s servants fulfill their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the world. (2:24-25)
* Don’t forget: we are \_\_\_\_\_ God’s “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!” (2:16)

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Debrief Plan: 1/8/2023

**Icebreakers**:

1. What is your favorite Christmas dessert? When was the last time you got to eat some? When was the first time?
2. This has been an unusually warm January. What’s something you’ve been able to do outside in the last week or so that you normally can’t do this time of year?

**Sermon Summary**: As spiritually alive people, we are called by God to live for His purposes no matter what it costs us. Apparently this applies to everyone, even slaves in Peter’s day who were extremely vulnerable. Peter called them (and us) to follow in Jesus’s footsteps by enduring unjust suffering in order to fulfill their calling as God’s “slaves.”

**Discussion Questions**:

1. **Read 1 Corinthians 7:17-24.** What does this passage add to our understanding of how the apostles wanted Christian slaves to think about their experience of slavery?
2. Peter’s command for Christian slaves to submit to their masters (both good and unjust) doesn’t seem fair. Is that important? Explain.
3. When you’re suffering for doing what is right, does it help you to realize that Jesus went through the same things? Why or why not?
4. Why do we feel justified to sin when we are being treated unfairly?
5. What does it look like to entrust yourself to a God who judges justly? How easy is this to do on a scale of 1-10?
6. **Read 1 Peter 2:22-23**. These verses describe how Jesus reacted to unjust suffering. Which of these reactions stands out to you as being the hardest for you personally to imitate and why?
7. To call all Christians “servants” (2:16 – a.k.a. “bondslaves,” the same Greek word as “servants” in vs. 18) is a risky metaphor, because there are certainly some parts of a first century slave’s experience that God would NOT want us to experience. So, why does God use that metaphor? In what way(s) does God want us to live as His “servants”? In what way(s) does He ***NOT*** want us to live as “servants”?