The Big Picture

*Finding God’s Purposes in 1 Peter*

Pastor Toby • Week 29• 3/12/2023

**Tug of War**

1 Peter 4:1-7

Introduction: There’s a tug of war inside us between our desire to live for God’s mission or live for relief and pleasure.

How does “suffering well” help us win this battle?

* “Suffering well” changes how we \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (4:1-2)
* “Suffering well” changes what we \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (4:3-4)
* “Suffering well” prepares us for God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (4:5-7)

But how?

* + It reminds us that we will \_\_\_\_\_\_ for our actions. \_\_\_\_\_. (4:5, 7a)
  + It opens you up to receiving the \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (4:6)
  + It helps you choose the right \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (4:7b)

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Debrief Plan: 3/12/2023

**Icebreakers**:

1. If you could be an animal for a day, which animal would you choose to be and why?
2. If you were to choose a fictional family to live with, who would it be and why?

**Sermon Summary**: “Suffering well” as Peter describes in 2:13-4:1 has an unexpected side benefit to us as followers of Jesus: it helps us to live for God’s mission instead of just for the passing pleasures of sin. It does so by changing the way we think about what’s important, which changes our behavior and better prepares us to face God’s judgment.

1. Have you ever experienced suffering of some kind that changed how you thought about what was important? How did it change your thinking?

**Read 1 Peter 4:1-4.**

1. What does it ***look like*** to “live for human passions”? Why (beyond the fact that God tells us NOT to) is this not a desirable way to live?
2. What does it ***look like*** to “live for the will of God”? Why (beyond the fact that God tells us to) is this a better way to live?
3. How strong a force in your experience is “peer pressure”? How can we resist this pressure as followers of Jesus who desire to “live for the will of God”?

**Read 1 Peter 4:5-11.**

1. How do you feel about telling people that there is a coming judgment that they will have to face? Is it possible to think of the news of coming judgment as good news? If so, how?
2. Why do you think Peter tells his readers that “the end of all things is at hand” in verse 7? Why is that an important thing to say at this point in his letter?
3. Paul makes it clear in verses 3-4 what kind of behaviors he wants his readers to avoid. What behaviors in this paragraph does he want his readers to pursue? How do these behaviors relate to the goal of “living for the will of God” in verse 2?
4. How would choosing to engage in the behaviors listed in 7-11 change the way that Christians are perceived by the world?