**SERMON – 2 Peter 2:18-25 Hope When Treated Unjustly**

18 Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust.

19 For this is a **gracious thing,** when, **mindful of God**, one **endures** **sorrows** while **suffering** **unjustly**.

20 For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and **suffer** for it you **endure**, this is a **gracious thing** in the sight of God.

21 For to this you have been **called**, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an **example**, so that you might follow in his steps.

22 He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. . 

**Growing in the knowledge of God**

23 When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.

**Living in the Good of the Gospel**

24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed

**Resting in the Care of THE Shepherd**

25 For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

What difference is your faith making in your life?

Spend money? Use your time? Entertainment choices?

How you view and interact with people?

How you think about government?

If no visible difference, it’s possible your faith is not real or it’s not functioning.

CONTEXT

We have been born again. The oldest gone the new has come.

We have a different perspective and different priorities.

We live by different rules from a different king

We are exiles.

To keep our conduct honorable which is our witness to the world by which God uses our character to draw people to himself.

So, what difference is your faith making and how you live.

Another pastor said” if it was illegal to be a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?”

Are faith should make a huge difference in how we act when we are treated unjustly.

Ever been treated unjustly?

By your spouse, employer, fellow employee, family member

Society.

We all have a story to share.

For some, your life has been defined by some unjust treatment

For me, when this happens- very great temptation.

Wells up wanting to get even

Want to set things right by retaliating

If not resolved reasonable time, move to self-pity

Worse yet self-righteousness.

If it keeps going, I can be tempted to resentment, bitterness and unrest in my soul.

Can you relate to that?

By our very nature, our inclination is to

Anger, being critical, resentful

When we been hurt or unjustly treated.

One way or hurt, we tend to be feel justified in how we think, feel and act..

These are powerful, internal functional forces inside of us.

Before Christian, God calls us to deal with unjust treatment without bitterness, revenge or the desire to retaliate.

We will be unjustly treated.

But we will not

Go eye for an eye, retaliate, threatened, revile, slander, or be bitter.

Look at verse 19 and 20

Being a Christian should make a profound difference when we are treated unjustly.

In this passage we see another calling.

We are called to endure unjust suffering without

Anger, bitterness, cursing, revenge, self-righteousness, or self-pity.

The context here is servants.

Peters not addressing the issue of employers and employees

Those being addressed did not have social and economic freedoms like we think about with employees.

The most common form of employment arrangements was being a servant- ‘s likely 25 to 40% of the workforce in this arrangement.

So it’s not just to servants but it’s to all Christians.

Look at 1 Peter 3:9.

He’s calling for all Christians and unjust suffering to endure.

So here’s the calling and the principle this morning.

If you are Christian. God has called you to respond to unjust suffering

Without retaliation or bitterness, resentment nor a desire to hurt back with words or actions.

V19-20 sorrow(s) plural

Anguish of mind and heart

Feel hurt, betrayed, confused, loss of trust

Then vs 21

Peter shows us Jesus’s life.

He suffered “for you”

He suffered for something he never did. He did it for you

The appropriate response is that he v19 ENDURES and v20 ENUDRES

No anger, bitterness, self-pity, slander or self-righteousness.

V22 and surprisingly different response of Jesus:

He did not revile or retaliate.

We have been called to do the same.

We have been called to endure without retaliation, threats and reviling in our word’s, deeds and actions.

Now- when we experience unjust suffering, Peter says it is a “ gracious thing”.

Twice.

It’s a grace thing when you respond without retaliation

That’s grace!

That’s the grace of God all over you!

This is- grace not some command or rule.

In fact it’s a miracle.

Responding to unjust treatment without retaliation is a grace thing.

So here’s a question-

How do we position ourselves to receive an experience this particular grace so that we may endure unjust suffering the way Jesus did?

Peter’s answer?

V19-

“when mindful of God”.

Being mindful of God

Is having your mind full of God.

Having your mind full of God positions you to endure unjust treatment without retaliation, bitterness, resentment, self-pity and self-righteousness.

That means (hold R hand up)

As aware of God as you are aware of the offense.

That’s taking his presence seriously.

Smart strength of will, white knuckle effort, stoic resolve to bear up under it in your own strength.

No- we can endure sorrows while suffering unjustly because we have God in mind.

Keep conduct honorable – see your good deeds/ glorify God

Doing Good – silence the foolishness of ignorant people

Ever been treated wrong?

Fear, Resentment, Resignation

Courage, Compassion, Confidence, Patient trusting endurance.

Our natural instinct when treated unjustly is to strike back, get even, seek revenge

If we can’t, will threaten with our words.

These responses only appropriate for those who are not mindful of God.

Anger, bitterness, resentment, slander

Want to get even, hurt, and lash out

Self-pity, self-righteousness, , concerned about others’ motives

V18 context of masters and servants

19-20

this is a gracious thing

endures sorrows

suffering unjustly

yet mindful of God

when you do good and suffer and you endure-

gracious thing in sight of God.

**Endure : to maintain a belief or course of action in the face of opposition, *stand one’s ground, hold out, endure***

**Gracious: a beneficent disposition toward someone, *favor, grace, gracious care/help, goodwill***

21 to THIS – to WHAT?

experiencing grace while enduring sorrows while suffering unjustly-

you have been called.

BECAUSE –

Christ suffered for you.

Leaving you an example

(of experiencing grace while enduring sorrows while suffering unjustly)

22 – no sin, no deceit, did not revile, did not threaten

How do we position ourselves to receive this grace – to endure sorrows when suffering unjustly?

3 Ways to be mindful of God

Will help us in our response.

**1. Growing in the knowledge of God**

What’s presumed here.

How do you trust someone?

You know them, know about them.

You know they have your best interest in mind.

You know they can do something.

Perfect Justice, perfect Judge.

No one gets away with anything, ever.

God takes no bribes.

Temptation is to think that God isn’t where, doesn’t care and is not in control of this situation.

To be mindful of God is to have your mind full of God.

Jesus didn’t do any of these things.

He kept entrusting himself and the situation to God.

He knew God, he knew God was just.

He knew that in the end, God’s justice and righteousness would prevail.

CHURCH - Do you know God that well?

Jesus gave us an example

We are to know God intimately.

No evidence in Scripture of therapeutic venting of anger

No evidence of simply being strong, putting on a brave face being stoic

No-we see an example to follow

Trusting yourself to God knowing he is perfect judge.

Confident-nothing escapes his notice

No one gets away

He will write all wrong

Nothing escapes his evaluation

No one gets away with anything

How do you get to where you can truly release your unjust treatment and experience the grace promised?

The answer is simple but not easy to be mindful of God is to have your mindful of God by growing in the knowledge of God.

**ENTRUST to trun over for care or preservation, *give over, commend, commit***

Eph 4:20-22

Col 1:10

Col 3:10

Moses, Joseph, Joshua, Job, Jonah, Elijah, Daniel

Not being a doormat.

Not saying justice doesn’t matter.

Not saying when necessary to apply the provisions and laws of the land God has put in place to protect.

But we are saying- God is the perfect judge.

**Judges: to engage in a judicial process, *judge, decide, hale before a court, condemn,* also *hand over for judicial punishment***

**Justly: pert. to being just or right in a juridical sense, *justly, in an upright manner***

So you can pray”

Lord, you know every detail in the situation.

I don’t want resentment nor anger overwhelm my soul.

I don’t want to feel I need to take revenge

I don’t want to sort out people’s motives

I don’t want to wallow in self-pity

Or be puffed up in self-righteousness.

Trust and no in your perfect will and timing it will all be settled in a perfect and just way.

So being mindful of God

Is knowing that he sees, controls, is ruling, this over all things.

At that he sees it perfectly, accurately and is perfectly just in all he does.

**2. Living in the good of the gospel.**

The gospel is the work of God in Christ to reconcile us to himself.

His substitutionary death atoned for our sins.

The power of sin was broken, the penalty of sin was removed

The righteousness of Christ was credited to us.

We are to “live to righteousness”.

Romans 6:13 instruments of righteousness.

Live rightly.

[So that]

“live to righteousness”.

The standard for our behavior is not an abstract concept

Nor rigid set of rules-

but the inﬁnite person of God himself.

Now He has certain rights that we do not have.

To take life, act autonomously and so no.

But for the most part, His word instruct us to imitate his character and conduct.

He made us in his image, to be like him, to reflect that image.

When we sin, he always calls us back to imitate him.

That’s part of what’s behind repentance-

Turn from our sin, turn back to live to righteousness.

**Mosaic** Law is, “Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy” (Lev. 19:1 ).

The **Ten Commandments** was God’s call Israel to live grateful for God’s great deliverance:

“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery” (Ex. 20:2).

**New Testament.** Jesus tells his disciples,

“Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Matt. 5 :48).

**First Peter**. 1:15—16 Pet applied Lev 1:19 to the church - “Be holy for I am holy.”

Imitating God implies imitating Christ.

Our response to unjust treatment rests in our renewal in the image of Christ.

We imitate God’s loves by loving one another as Christ loved us.

We imitate Christ’s example by not retaliating, threatening, getting even.

We imitate His trust in the One who judges justly.

This is living in the good of the gospel.

All that the gospel accomplished & purchased for us-

Is to “live to righteousness”.

So the righteousness that God expects from us is to follow Jesus’s example,

And in doing so, reflect God’s own ethical character -

his love, his holiness, his righteousness.

And you will experience GRACE.

**3. Resting in the care of The Shephard.**

Is 26:3

**Shepherd : one who serves as guardian or leader, *shepherd,***

**Overseer: one who has the responsibility of safeguarding or seeing to it that someth. is done in the correct way, *guardian***