

1 PETER 2:18-23 “SUBMISSION TO THE POINT OF SUFFERING”

- Peter had one of the richest experiences when walking with Jesus
- More knowledge – more responsibility
- What Peter knew, what Peter experienced, what Peter believed – unique to Peter
 - Your knowledge, your experiences, your beliefs – unique to you.
 - What are you going to do with these things?

Luke 10:23-24

23 Then He turned to His disciples and said privately, “Blessed are the eyes which see the things you see;

24 for I tell you that many prophets and kings have desired to see what you see, and have not seen it, and to hear what you hear, and have not heard it.”

18 Servants, *be* submissive to *your* masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh.

1 Peter 2:18 (NASV) Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable.

- The Greek word translated “good,” refers to inner intrinsic goodness. They were good at heart.
- The word “gentle” in the Greek refers to that disposition which is mild, yielding, indulgent. It is derived from a Greek word meaning, “not being unduly rigorous.” Alford translates, “where not strictness of legal right, but consideration for another is the rule of practice.” The one word “reasonable” sums up its meaning pretty well. ¹
- “Harsh; unreasonable” is from the Greek *skolios* (lit., “curved,” “bent,” or “not straight”). The medical term “scoliosis,” referring to curvature of the spine, comes from this word. ²
- From the world’s perspective you give up only that which you are forced to.
 - Certainly would only respond to “reasonable” requests.
 - Who hasn’t quit a job where your supervisor asked you to do something unreasonable for what your getting paid?

¹Wuest, K. S. (1997, c1984). *Wuest’s word studies from the Greek New Testament : For the English reader* (1 Pe 2:18). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

lit. literal, literally

²Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-c1985). *The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

- From a Christian perspective you give, and continue serving, until it costs you your life.
 - **“He is not truly patient who will suffer only as much as he pleases or from whom he pleases. A truly patient man gives no heed from whom he suffers, whether from his superior or from his equal or from someone below him.”**

-- Thomas a Kempis, Leadership, Vol. 3, no. 2.

- How **“reasonable”** was our Father’s request to His only begotten Son to give His life for a crowd that hated Him for everything He represented?

Matthew 26:36-46

36 Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, “Sit here while I go and pray over there.”

37 And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed.

38 Then He said to them, **“My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.”**

39 He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, **“O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.”**

40 Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and **said to Peter**, “What! Could you not watch with Me one hour?”

41 Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak.”

42 Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, **“O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done.”**

43 And He came and found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy.

44 So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.

45 Then He came to His disciples and said to them, “Are *you* still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners.

46 Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand.”

John 18:10-11

10 Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant’s name was Malchus.

11 So Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword into the sheath. **Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?”**

John 3:16-17

16 For God so loved the world that **He gave** His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

19 For this *is* commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully.

20 For what credit *is it* if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? **But when you do good and suffer**, if you take it patiently, this *is* **commendable** before God.

- **“Commendable” – literally: “demonstrating God’s grace”**
 - How many times in life do we really have the opportunity to show the “grace” Jesus did when accused wrongfully and endure it with God’s level of grace?

- **Peter Marshall:** *“It is a fact of Christian experience that life is a series of troughs and peaks. In his efforts to get permanent possession of a soul, God relies on the troughs more than the peaks. And some of his special favorites have gone through longer and deeper troughs than anyone else.”*

-- Peter Marshall, Leadership, Vol. 5, no. 2.

- We are to “glory” when such opportunities arise in life:

Romans 5:1-5

1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

3 And not only *that*, but **we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance;**

4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope.

5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

21 **For to this you were called**, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:

22 “Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth”;

23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed *Himself* to Him who judges righteously;

Isaiah 53:9-10

9 His grave was assigned with wicked men, Yet He was with a rich man in His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was there any deceit in His mouth.

10 But the LORD was pleased To crush Him, putting *Him* to grief; If He would render Himself as a guilt offering, He will see *His* offspring, He will prolong *His* days, And the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand.

- **Henry Ford:** *"You can't build a reputation on what you're going to do."*