



SUNDAY MORNING, JULY 31, 2022 | PASTOR JONATHAN BARBER

MESSAGE TITLE: A LIVELY HOPE: HOPE SERVES!

MESSAGE SERIES/OCCASION: 1 PETER SERIES

MESSAGE TEXT: 1 PETER 2:18-25

THEME VERSE:

1 Peter 1:3 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...*

NEW MATERIAL:

A Lively Hope: Hope Serves!

1 Peter 2:18-25 *Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward. ¹⁹For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully. ²⁰For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. ²¹For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: ²²Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: ²³Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he*

suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: ²⁴Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. ²⁵For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

Introduction:

Does God care about your employment?

Note: Right off the bat, I believe it is important to point out that we today do not have an exact parallel situation with which to relate our text to concerning slavery or servanthood (though, you never know, it could be around the corner). The closest application we can make from servant/master commands is that of employee/employer commands. This is *not* a perfect parallel because Peter was writing to people who had no other recourse than to submit to the abuses that they received at the hands of their masters. While we do have recourses today that we should by all means exercise, (remember the example of Paul?), we can still take away some basic principles that we can apply to our employers.

Christians are servants

- Servants of Jesus Christ
 - o Paul, Peter, James, John, and Jude all introduced themselves as the servants of the Lord
 - o The idea of a bondsman is one of perpetual service
- Servants of one another
 - o Galatians 5:13 *For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.*
 - o Mark 10:44-45 *But Jesus called them to him, and saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them. ⁴³But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister: ⁴⁴And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all. ⁴⁵For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.*

In our text, Peter gives valuable instructions to servants that we can most certainly still apply to our lives today.

- **The Command to Servants**

¹⁸Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward. ¹⁹For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully. ²⁰For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.

- **Be subject to your masters with reverence**

- No exceptions, good employer or bad employer
- “froward” means *evil, crooked, perverse, unfair, or unjust*
 - This culture is all about justice; Christians are to be all about Jesus
 - This culture is all about “my rights;” Christians are to be all about God’s glory
 - You don’t have to work for him, but you do have to give him respect as an authority figure in your life

- **Be subject to your masters with integrity**

- To endure the grief of injustice with honor and integrity is praiseworthy
 - God is glorified
 - Satan is defeated
- Conscience toward God is the driving factor; not injustice toward men
 - We do not hold to a humanistic version of Christianity
 - Self-preservation and vindication have never been the Christian’s priority
 - Conscience toward God is what is most important

- **Be subject to your masters with patience**

²⁰For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.

- **There is no glory in patiently suffering for your faults**
- **God is pleased when you patiently suffer for your well-doing**
 - While you might say, “That’s not fair! That’s not right!” God says, “This is acceptable.”
 - Has it every occurred to you that God might be more pleased through your suffering through injustice than He is through your championing over it?

○ **Application:**

- **Give reverence and respect to your employers**
- **Grant equal respect to employers regardless of whether or not they are “good” or “bad”**
- **Remember that there is no glory in suffering for your faults—you deserve that!**

● **The Example of a Servant**

²¹For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

²²Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: ²³Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: ²⁴Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

○ **Follow Christ’s Example**

John 15:20 *Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have*

persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also

- **His suffering is our example**

- This is not weakness; it is the epitome of strength
- An individual who is secure in who He is can follow Christ's example

- **His example is our inspiration**

- He was innocent, and remained so – *“who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth”*
 - How many innocent people have quickly become not so in their furious anger and self-defense?
- He did not retaliate
 - Not with words (some people just *have* to have the last word)
 - No self-defense
 - No witty comebacks (Jesus wasn't your “comeback king”)
 - No revenge of any kind
- No threats
 - He simply took the suffering
 - Threats come from insecure people

- **Commit yourself to the Righteous Judge**

Illustration: King David – 2 Samuel 16:12 *“It may be that the LORD will look on mine affliction, and that the LORD will requite me good for his cursing this day.”*

Proverbs 15:3 *The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.*

- You can trust God to deal with your situation, and the injustice you have incurred.
 - Remember, you're in good company
 - Your employer is well within God's reach

- You can entrust your soul to the Judge of all the earth that will do right
- o **Seek to sacrificially live for others**

²⁴*Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.*

 - Salvation itself is predicated upon the heart of sacrificial service
 - Christ's service to me is my source of redemption and healing
 - I can commit myself to the Righteous Judge because I know how much He loves me

Application:

- Christ is not primarily concerned with the injustices that you have suffered; He is concerned with your response to them
- By following Christ's example, we give opportunity to introduce others to Him
- Commit your cause to the One who has sacrificed so much for you

- **The Indebtedness of a Servant**

²⁵*For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.*

- o **Our only "entitlement" is to Christ**
 - By "rights" we the eternal judgment of God
 - Christ owes us nothing
 - We owe Him everything
- o **Our ultimate Master is the Lord**
 - He is our Shepherd
 - He is our Bishop
 - He is our Savior
 - Return to Him!
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Application:

- Serve Him by serving others
- Fear and reverence Him by interacting with your current authorities with fear and reverence

The past few verses have dealt with our testimony among the “Gentiles” of this world. What we’re seeing is that sometimes we are able to make a bigger impact through our suffering than we are through the championing of our rights. This is tough. But it is undeniable that God works through the faithful, humble service of God’s people in less-than-desirable situations.

Takeaways:

- Are you willing to serve those whom you despise?
- Are you willing to trust God to work through your suffering?
- Will you seek to follow Christ’s example of self?

LIFE GROUP LEADER DISCUSSION GUIDE

1 Peter 2:18-25

A Lively Hope: Hope Serves

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Summary: Open by quickly recapping the lesson (**try not to re-preach**) in about 5-10 minutes.

Discussion Questions:

[Feel absolutely no compulsion to use all of these questions or any of these questions for that matter. This is where you could share your personal highlights from the message and any questions you have of your own.]

1. What must it have been like for these Christian slaves and servants living in Peter's time, and how might his exhortation to them help us to have perspective now?

2. While we are not servants or slaves of our employers, how might we apply Peter's admonition to Christian slaves in our lives today?

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3. Why is the matter of patiently suffering for well-doing such a powerful testimony to the world?

4. How might one handle a situation with an overbearing, unjust employer in a way that both reverences the employer and yet appeals the injustice?

5. Christ's example of patiently enduring unjust suffering is both convicting and compelling. How should His example inform our opinions about our relationships with those that we serve?

6. How does taking suffering like Jesus help to bring the lost to Christ? Do you have any examples you can share?

7. Christ's selfless, sacrificial service to us has truly placed us in His debt. How might this acknowledgment help a Christian endure a difficult workplace situation?

8. What does the example of Christ in the life of a believer say about that believer's hope?
