

Battle bitterness Through Trust

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1 Peter 2:18-25 *Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to the kind and gentle but also to the overbearing. For one is approved if, mindful of God, he endures pain while suffering unjustly. For what credit is it, if when you do wrong and are beaten for it, you take it patiently? But if when you do right and suffer for it you take it patiently, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, **because Christ also suffered for you**, leaving you an example that you should **follow in His steps. He committed no sin; no guile was found on His lips.** When He was reviled, He did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten; but He trusted to Him who judges justly. 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. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and guardian of your souls.*

1. This was written for people who justify anger by the wrong things done to them. In other words, it was written for almost everybody. There is an automatic and deeply rooted sense that is built into all of us that if I've been mistreated or let down or hurt, then the other person deserves to be shown up and brought to justice. Therefore, I have the right to make sure that I can make that happen.
2. The other reason we need to focus on this is that we are all affected by it in one way or another. Most Christians acknowledge the need to get a better handle on this verse. Marriages, work situations, church relationships....all are affected.
 - a. Verse 19 starts with our calling as Christians: *One is approved, if, mindful of God, he endures pain while suffering unjustly. For what credit is it, if when you do wrong and are beaten for it, you take it patiently? But if when you do right and suffer for it you take it patiently, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called.*

Please let this sink in. When you do RIGHT, you will suffer. When you do RIGHT, you will be criticised. When you do RIGHT, things will not necessarily get better. When you do RIGHT, someone will say a hurtful thing. When you do RIGHT, people will not even notice and there will be no appreciation.

NOTICE: THIS IS OUR CALLING! 1 Peter 3:8, 9 says: *Finally, all of you have unity of spirit, sympathy, love of the brethren, a tender heart and a humble mind. Do not return evil for evil or reviling for reviling; but on the contrary bless, for to this you have been called....*

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

1. Christ suffered for you. When Christ suffered He was standing in your place. He was bearing your sins so that your condemnation became His and He took it away from you (1 Peter 2:24 and Galatians 3:13).
2. When Christ suffered He gave us an example of how we are to live. This is spelled out in verses 22-23.
3. HE TRUSTED HIMSELF TO HIM WHO JUDGES JUSTLY (23).
4. When the good you do goes unnoticed, remember Matthew 6:4,18
5. When the good you do is rejected, remember Romans 12:19-20