

# Metro Women's Bible Study

## 1 Peter 2:18-25

### Lesson 8

Welcome back to Bible Study Ladies! I pray that you had a very Blessed Christmas vacation with your families! I spent over two weeks enjoying time with my parents and all of my children! I can't tell you what joy it was having them all here!! Because of the fun and craziness around my home, I was unable to work on this study and get it out to you in a timely manner. With the kids back in school and my company all gone, I am ready to dive back into this amazing study of 1 Peter. I hope you are too!

#### Day One: Read 1 Peter 2:18-25

1. Go through 1 Peter 2:18-25 and record the verses that reveal “**Truths About God, Truths About Jesus, Truths About Believers, and Instructions.**”

2. What are the subjects covered in 1 Peter 2:18-25?

3. How would you title Verses 18-25?

4. Verse 18 says, “*Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh.*” Look up the word **servant** in your Concordance and write out the English Definition.

#### **Servant-**

The word **oiketes** is not the common word for slaves. Many of them were household or domestic slaves, well educated and held responsible positions in the households. Many of them were doctors, teachers, musicians, actors and stewards over great estates. The **oiketes** or household slave describes one who generally holds closer relations to the family than other slaves. He is one of the household of the “family” and yet to promote order he too is called by Peter to submit to those in authority. Remember that **servants & slaves** made up a high percentage of the early church & thus a large part of Peter's readers.

5. How does this principle of *servants be submissive to your masters* apply to **us** today?

In Lesson 6 we covered Verse 17, which reads, “*Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God.*” The word **fear** in this verse means to revere and is in the **present imperative** indicating a **command** to make this the habit of your life. **Fear** does not mean terror to the believer but conveys a sense of *awe and reverence towards God*. **Reverence** is the combination of admiration and fear, awe and dread, wonder and terror.

6. Notice in verse 18 the phrase **with all fear**. Look up the word **fear** in your Concordance and write out the English definition.

a. Is the word **fear** in verse 18 used in the same manner as in verse 17? If not, what is the difference?

**Fear God-**

**Servants be subject to your Masters with all fear –**

### **Day Two: Read 1 Peter 2:18-20**

1. Peter tells his readers that they are to submit **with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh**. Look up the word **harsh** (froward) in your Concordance and write out the English definition.

**Harsh/Froward-**

a. Can any of you relate to this kind of taskmaster? Is your submission dependent on the attitude or behavior of those in authority over you? Explain.

2. Turn **Tragedy** into **Triumph** by accepting your situation of a harsh taskmaster courageously by putting yourself in the hands of a loving God who makes no mistakes! Let's look at a woman in the Old Testament that did just that! Read 1 Samuel 25:3-42. What did you learn about Abigail's character through her difficult circumstances with a husband that was unreasonable, harsh and foolish?

3. Many times we feel as though God has forgotten about us in our difficult situations. Read Jeremiah 29:11. Write out this wonderful passage and breakdown the promises that He has given for those who in difficult circumstances.

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

f.

**Wuest** writes "The masters had their faces dead set against these Christian slaves. We can understand that attitude when we remember that these slaves lived lives of singular purity, meekness, honesty, willingness to serve, and obedience in the households of their heathen masters. This was a powerful testimony for the gospel, and brought them under conviction of sin. All this irritated them, and they reacted in a most unpleasant way toward their slaves, whom they would punish without provocation. Yet they did not want to sell these Christian slaves and buy pagan ones, for the Christian slaves served them better. So they just had to make the best of the situation."

4. From the above quote, what did you learn about the attitude we should have when treated harshly and unjustly, and the action we should exhibit?

5. The Christian slave was to *submit* and respect his master whether he was **good and gentle** or **harsh**. Why were these slaves commanded to submit with all fear? See 1 Peter 2:19-20

**1 Peter 2:19-20**

6. Look up the word **commendable (thankworthy)** in your Concordance and write out the English definition.

7. For one is **regarded favorably (is approved, acceptable, and thankworthy)** if in the sight of God, he endures the pain of unjust suffering. It takes a real Disciple of Jesus to take undeserved and unjust punishment! It is a natural response to fight back and demand our rights when we are wronged. But as Christians who are dead to sin and alive to Christ we must do much more than the natural man! Anyone can fight back; it takes a Spirit-filled Christian to submit to God and let Him fight our battles. How do the following passages reinforce this truth? Underline or highlight your findings.

**1 Corinthians 2:14-16** <sup>14</sup>But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned. <sup>15</sup>But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is *rightly* judged by no one. <sup>16</sup>For "*who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?*" But we have the mind of Christ."

**Luke 6:32-34** <sup>32</sup>"But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup>And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup>And if you lend *to those* from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back.

**Romans 12:16-21** <sup>16</sup>Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. <sup>17</sup>Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. <sup>18</sup>If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. <sup>19</sup>Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but *rather* give place to wrath; for it is written, "*Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,*" says the Lord. <sup>20</sup>Therefore "*If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.*"

**MacDonald** writes that, "When we suffer unjustly, we win God's approval. He is pleased when He finds us so conscious of our relation to Him that we endure undeserved pain without vindicating self or fighting back. When we meekly take unjust treatment, we display Christ; this supernatural life gains God's "Well done!"

### **Days Three & Four: Read 1 Peter 2:19-21**

1. The next part of verse 19 says that, "***if because of conscience toward God...***" Look up in your Concordance and a Dictionary the word **conscience** and write out the English definition.

**Conscience-**

2. In the context of this passage, the idea of **suneidesis** (conscience) is that the servant has a conscious awareness of God and an allegiance to Him as his or her Master. Because he is conscience, (mindful, aware of His presence,) towards God he endures grief. Look up the following references and summarize what you learned about the **conscience**.

### **Acts 24:16**

### **2 Timothy 1:3a**

### **Hebrews 13:18**

3. Verse 19 finishes by saying, "***If because of conscience toward God*** one endures grief, suffering wrongfully." Look up the word **endure** in your Concordance and write out the English Definition.

**Endure-**

4. The **present tense** of this word indicates that **bearing up under** is this man's lifestyle, the attitude and the habitual practice of this person! In the meaning of **hupophero** is the picture of a plant which is crushed down and trampled upon, yet keeps rising back up again. This critical character quality is one of the primary factors which will determine whether or not we finish God's course for our lives. Would you say this is the mark or inherent quality of your life? If not, how does this challenge you?

5. Look at Hebrew 12:1-2 below and answer the questions.

a. What does the believer need to do run the race?

b. How does the believer **endure**?

c. How and why did Jesus **endure**?

*"Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."*

**MacDonald** writes, "When we suffer unjustly, we win God's approval. He is pleased when He finds us so conscious of our relation to Him that we endure undeserved pain without vindicating self or fighting back. When we meekly take unjust treatment, we display Christ; this supernatural life gains God's "Well done!"

6. Look up and write out the definition of the word **grief** from your Concordance.

**Grief-**

7. In Peter's day **mistreated slaves**, those suffering wrongfully could not relocate to another workplace since their masters owned them. They weren't able to join a labor union, consult a vocational counselor, or file a civil suit like many do in today's society. Their patient endurance was not only a testimony to the **power of salvation**, but also an opportunity to **exercise great faith**. How would their testimony exhibit "*the power of salvation*", and what do you think "*an opportunity to exercise great faith*" means?

a. Our hope is that when the lost see the believer's tranquility in the midst of a great trial, it will attract them to Christ. This passage speaks of *suffering wrongfully*, but looking at suffering overall, have you seen your past or present *suffering* as an opportunity to exercise your faith in Christ? Give an example.

b. Have you considered how your attitude in the midst of suffering might impact unbelievers looking on and attract them to Christ?

c. Have you had a situation in which suffering wrongfully or mistreatment falls in line with this passage? How did you respond?

8. What is the contrast in verse 20?

9. When we are reprimanded for your faults we should not be surprised if there are repercussions for our actions! All of us long for mercy when we blow it, but sometimes the only way to learn from our mistakes is to experience consequences. As mom's you understand what I mean! Read Hebrews 12:6-8. What do you learn about the discipline of the Lord?

*"My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;<sup>6</sup>For whom the Lord loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives." If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? <sup>8</sup>But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons."*

10. 1 Peter 2:21 tells us that the prior verses are not suggestions, but the behavior to which God calls the Christian! What three truths does this verse teach us?

- a.
- b.
- c.

Christ suffered for us!! Wow! Selah~ We go through our days sometimes so unaware of how many times we sin and fall short and how Christ suffered a horrendous death for you and I because of it! We despise suffering, especially when it is not for a just reason. He who knew no sin, The Innocent One, took the punishment of our sin upon Himself! He was mistreated, ridiculed, harassed, despised, rejected, misunderstood, beaten and died! Peter through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit exhorts slaves to follow Christ's example of suffering!

11. Read and write out 1Peter 3:18.

- a. How does this passage describe Christ?
- b. Look up this word **Just** in your Concordance and write out the English Definition.  
**Just-**
- c. Look up the **synonyms** of this word in your Dictionary.

12. How does this passage describe the **unregenerate** (not born again) man?

- a. Look up the word in your Concordance and write out the English definition.

b. Look up the **synonyms** of this word in your Dictionary

c. Now try rewriting 1 Peter 3:18 using the synonyms of both of these words.

13. Looking at the context of the servant suffering unjustly, what does Verse 21 say to us? Please write it out.

14. How does 2 Timothy 3:12, support this passage?

a. Most believers living in the United States do not *suffer* as those of the early church or those living in some countries today. What are some ways we as believers, might *suffer persecution* for the sake of the gospel today?

### **Day Five: Read 1 Peter 2:21-24**

1. Reread verse 21. What did Christ leave us with?

2. Look up the word **example** in your Concordance and write out the English Definition.

3. How are we to respond to the example He left according to verse 21?

4. The way we *Follow His steps* is by observing Christ's actions and attitudes in 1 Peter 2:22-23. From the following verses, make a list of what these verses record about Christ's example.

**Verse 22a**

**Verse 22b**

**Verse 23a**

**Verse 23b**

**Verse 23c**

a. This is the example that Christ left for us to follow. All of these spoke to my heart in specific ways, in what ways did they speak to yours?

b. What passages from the Word can be a reminder and help you follow Christ's example?

5. 1 Peter 2:24 has the potential to stir within us a depth of gratitude and commitment that will transform our lives. Concentrate on what Christ did for you as you print verse 24a here.

Figuratively (as used here by Peter) **anaphero (bore)** means to take up and bear sins by imputation (act of laying the responsibility or blame for) as typified by the ancient sacrifices.

**Jesus** our Great High Priest bore our sins as our substitutionary sacrifice, dying in our place, in order to bring about atonement for our sins. The priests in the Old Covenant could not bear our sins.

**Read this story as it relates to this passage:** During the Napoleonic Wars, men were conscripted into the French army by a lottery system. If your name was drawn, you had to go off to battle. But in the rare case that you could get someone else to take your place, you were exempt. On one occasion the authorities came to a certain man and told him that his name had been drawn. But he refused to go, saying, "I was killed two years ago." At first they questioned his sanity, but he insisted that this was in fact the case. He claimed that the records would show that he had been conscripted two years previously and that he had been killed in action. "How can that be?" they questioned. "You are alive now." He explained that when his name came up, a close friend said to him, "You have a large family, but I'm not married and nobody is dependent on me. I'll take your name and address and go in your place." The records upheld the man's claim. The case was referred to Napoleon himself, who decided that the country had no legal claim on that man. He was free because another man had died in his place.

6. What should be the result in a believer's life because of what Jesus has done?

a. According to Romans 6:11, what two things are we to **reckon** (consider to be true)?

7. According to Romans 6:12-13, how are we *to live for righteousness as stated in verse 24*?

**Live** (2198) (zao) in this passage refers to natural physical life but figuratively (as used here) refers to how we conduct ourselves. Ultimately Christ has opened the door for believers to enjoy life in its fullest, richest sense, as God intended it to be lived. And in context such a life is one that conforms to God's holy character (which equates with righteousness), for He is the essence of righteousness. When one lives to righteousness they will manifest rightness of character before God and rightness of actions before men. Both of these qualities are based on truth, which is conformity to the Word and will of God.

8. From verse 24b, why did Jesus *bore our sins in His own body on the tree*?

**Spurgeon** writes...By his sufferings, you were cured of sin. His death not only removed from you the penalty of sin; but what is far better, it also removed from you the dread of the disease itself. "By whose stripes you were healed", Writing to slaves who may have received such stripes, Peter's words are valuable to their souls!

9. Keep 1 Peter 2:21-24 in mind as you read Isaiah 53:4-7. Underline or write out the parallels you see in these 2 passages.

*"<sup>4</sup> Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup> But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.<sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. <sup>7</sup> He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth."*

### **Day Six: Read 1 Peter 2:25**

1. Describe the way believers and the Lord are portrayed in 1 Peter 2:25
2. Look up the word **Stray** in your Concordance and write out the English Definition.

#### **Stray-**

- a. The Word often associates believers with *sheep*. List a few similarities between them.
  - b. What was the cost of our *going astray* and turning to our *own way*? See Isaiah 53:6b
3. 1 Peter 2:25b concludes with good news. Print the encouraging declaration recorded in this verse.
    - a. Record those things that are revealed about our **Shepherd** in John 10:11-15?
    - b. What does it mean to you today that the Lord is your **Overseer**?

4. Take a few moments to read below Psalm 23 with 1 Peter 2:25 in mind. Highlight any additional insights you noticed.

<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

<sup>2</sup> He makes me to lie down in green pastures;  
He leads me beside the still waters.

<sup>3</sup> He restores my soul;  
He leads me in the paths of righteousness  
For His name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil;  
For You are with me;  
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
You anoint my head with oil;  
My cup runs over.

<sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
All the days of my life;  
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord  
Forever.

The word for **overseer** in the Greek is **Episkopos** and is sometimes translated "bishop". The fundamental idea of **episkopos** is overseeing.

**MacArthur** writes, "A **shepherd's oversight** of the flock expresses itself broadly in two ways. **First**, shepherds provide truthful, positive direction and leadership to the flock. **Second**, they warn of spiritual dangers such as sin, false teaching, and false teachers, including Satan's assaults against the saints. On one hand, the shepherd teaches truth, and on the other, he warns of sin and refutes doctrinal error. In leading the flock down the path of righteousness, the shepherd also watches for, warns, and even rescues the stray who has been enticed by false teaching and alluring sin. When shepherds exercise their oversight responsibly, they will have both a preventative and a confrontive side to their ministry. One cannot shepherd the flock with credibility unless he provides a corrective oversight of watching and warning."

5. What "Truths About God, Truths About Jesus, Truths About Believers, and Instructions" did you learn this week?

*Righteousness will go before Him, And shall make His footsteps our pathway. - Psalm 85:13*