



PETER

THE MARTYR

Daily Devotions and Small Group Discussion Questions | Week Two

This Week's Memory Verse

..to keep in your pocket, memorize, and hide in your heart:

They promise them freedom,
while they themselves are slaves of depravity –
for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him.

- 2 Peter 2:19

Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 8:4-7; 2 Peter 2:19; Galatians 5:1

Devotional Reading

Jeremiah writes, "Everyone turns to his own course like a horse plunging headlong into battle."

Americans today are so much like this description of God's people in Jeremiah. We love freedom and independence so much that we sometimes see God's plan as a shackle. We are blind to the fact that, as Peter said, "Whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved."

As God's creations we were not formed to function independently, but to rely on God. If we do not choose him as our master then we become defenseless, falling into slavery to worldly things such as money, comfort, food, sexual impurity, self-centeredness, and material things. If God is not first, we are like the rider-less horse charging into battle, careening down whatever path pleases us. Peter warns us that "it would have been better for them to never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them."

But there is hope. When God is our master, he sets us free!

Paul tells us in Ephesians, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." If we trust beyond doubt that he is good, we can long for him to take the reins, give up our independence, and let him lead us away from slavery.

Faith In Action

Truly think about what has been mastering you. Write it down. Picture opening your hands and releasing that idol at the foot of the cross. Repent and pray for the Holy Spirit to work in your heart daily to turn you away from whatever you idolized and to release you from its chains.

Today's Prayer

Father, you have set us free! Thank you! Help us to not put ourselves into slavery again by allowing the created things of this world to master us. Change our hearts to love and put you, our good Creator, first.