



PETER

THE DISCIPLE MAKER

Daily Devotions and Small Group Discussion Questions | Week Four

This Week's Memory Verse

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

Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh,
arm yourselves with the same way of thinking,
for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,
so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh
no longer for human passions but for the will of God.

- 1 Peter 4:1-2 (ESV)

Week Four, Day One

Scripture Reading

1 Peter 3:13-14; Matthew 5:10

Devotional Reading

This week, our study of Peter's message continues our exploration of the ever-so-warm and welcoming subject of suffering and its role in our lives.

Peter dives right in, coming back to discuss suffering for the third time in this letter, on the very heels of encouraging godly behavior as disciples, to indicate that despite our best attempts at righteous living, suffering will most likely be a part of our Christian experience.

Let us consider the paradox of suffering as a vehicle for God's blessing.

Can you buy the idea that pain, wounds, hopelessness, frustration, unjust persecution, physical harm, etc., can prove to be a means of God's blessing? When we suffer for being obedient to God, we will be blessed. "Even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake," Peter says, "you will be blessed." Peter is inviting us once again to embrace the upside down nature of the good news that, "[makes] foolish the wisdom of the world" (1 Corinthians 1:20).

"How can pain equal blessing?," the World scoffs.

But Peter knew that of which he spoke. After three years in ministry with Jesus being chased and plotted against by the religious leaders, he was twice arraigned, imprisoned, escaped, hunted, and was eventually martyred on an upside down cross in Rome. And still he testifies, "Even if you should suffer for righteousness sake, you will be blessed." Do you believe it?

Can you trust God for blessing as the fruit of suffering in your life?

Faith In Action

Take some time to consider any suffering or hardships you are experiencing in your life. Bring them into the light of God's paradoxical goodness, and ask yourself if you can trust him to turn them into blessings for you, however he sees fit.

Today's Prayer

Lord, thank you that you are the God who makes beauty from ashes and works all things to the good of those who love you. While your blessing may not be the blessing I'd design for myself in my short-sightedness, help me to trust you through my suffering to see your hand of blessing on my life and to glorify you.