



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 Five

Scripture Reading

Matthew 25:34-36

Devotional Reading

This week, our study has focused on the likelihood that, in our Christian lives, we will suffer for choosing to live righteously.

In 2 Timothy, Paul writes, “In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted” (3:12). We’ve discussed this idea all week. Now the hard question: Can we relate? Are we, in fact, suffering for the sake of righteousness?

There is no doubt that all of us face hardship and pain in our lives. We certainly endure the human suffering that comes with living among broken people in a broken world. Death, disease, failure, frustration – we each suffer these things in abundance.

Can we, though, see ways in our life that we are suffering for our choice to follow Jesus?

In our time and place, we don’t face real political persecution just for saying we believe in Jesus. And yet, the call of God on our lives, the mandate of righteous living, asks of us so much more than saying we’re believers. So then, are we being obedient enough to do the radical kind of good we’re called to do, with all the freedom that we have, if we are not experiencing suffering in any way for ways we’re living righteously?

Maybe, with the freedom we have been given in our lives, what God is asking us to do is join in the suffering of others. To care for those who are suffering, perhaps for those who are suffering unjustly, and in this way to take on suffering for righteousness sake, and receive the blessings promised.

Faith In Action

In an attitude of prayer, go to www.northway.org/outreach. Read about the ministries that our church partners with to help alleviate the suffering in our community and in our world, and prayerfully consider whether God may be inviting you to become part of taking on the suffering of others for righteousness’ sake.

Today’s Prayer

Lord, thank you for the great gift of religious freedom you’ve given me. Help me not to take it for granted that I am free to follow you. Please show me how you want me to use that freedom to glorify your name, and give me a heart that is prepared to suffer or take on suffering for righteousness’ sake to see your kingdom come.