Thriving as Exiles
The Radical Life

Today: 1 Peter 2:18 25

Some background verses

Mark 8:31-38; John 12:23-26; Isaiah 53:3-10

"Cruciform"

A difficult pill to swallow!

1 Peter 2:18-20

When <u>mistreated</u>, how do I <u>respond</u>?

Living the radical life in our culture

We've been given a radical <u>model</u> to <u>imitate</u>

1 Peter 2:21-25

Choose to live by <u>His</u> <u>playbook</u>

Next week: 1 Peter 3:1-7

Growth Group Questions

1. Read the text out loud together. What was one thing from John's message on Sunday that challenged your thinking?

2. Bring to mind a time when you experienced suffering. Consider whether that suffering felt just or unjust, and how that distinction may have colored your experience of suffering. To the extent that you feel comfortable, share that experience with your group.

3. It is tempting to identify suffering as a sign of our personal righteousness, assuming that we suffer because we are following Christ, but passages like this one in 1 Peter 2 do not frame suffering in that way. Rather, the passage deals with how we respond to inevitable suffering that all will experience, whether it is just or not. How does this passage suggest Christ's response to suffering should inform our response to suffering?

5. Verse 21 says, **"**For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered* for you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps." In our context, there may be times when choosing our own interests and our own control contributes to the suffering of others, and times when choosing to endure suffering with goodness alleviates the suffering of others. How can we navigate our experience with suffering in a way that reflects Christ's sacrificial others-centeredness?

4. How does responding to suffering in the manner of Christ offer us comfort?