

Monday • May 11, 2026

When Doing Good Costs You

1 Peter 3:17 — *For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.*

Nobody signs up for hardship. And yet here is the Apostle Peter, writing to Christians scattered across the Roman Empire, and he tells them plainly: doing good may cost you something. It may invite difficulty. It may bring suffering right to your door.

This is not the version of faith that promises a smooth road. Peter is not offering a comfortable message. He is offering an honest one. The Holy Spirit works through God's people — through their talents, their kindness, their courage — to do good in a fallen world. And a fallen world does not always say thank you.

But Peter does not leave us in despair. He gives us a reason to hold on. The suffering of doing good is not pointless suffering. It is suffering that places us in the footsteps of our Savior, who suffered not for anything he had done wrong, but entirely for us. When we do good and find hardship as our reward, we are walking the same road Christ walked. And we know where that road leads — through the cross and out the other side into resurrection and life.

This week we will spend time in 1 Peter 3, a passage that holds together two great truths: the call to do good in a costly world, and the stunning victory of Christ over everything that stands against us. Today, we begin where Peter begins — with the honest reality that following Jesus is not always easy, and the equally honest promise that it is always worth it.

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever done the right thing and had it backfire? What happened, and how did you respond?
2. Why do you think Peter calls it 'better' to suffer for doing good than for doing evil? What difference does the reason behind our suffering make?
3. How does knowing that Jesus himself suffered for doing good help you face difficulty in your own life?

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, you know what it means to do good and receive suffering in return. When that is our experience, remind us that we are not alone — you have walked this road ahead of us. Give us the courage to keep doing what is right, even when it is hard, trusting that you are working in ways we cannot yet see. Amen.

Family Action Item

As a family, name one way you can do something good for someone else this week — a neighbor, a classmate, a coworker — even if it costs you something (time, money, comfort). Make a plan and do it together before Saturday.