

TALK IT OVER

Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step.

Key Scripture

⁸ To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; ⁹ not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing. ¹⁰ For, "The one who desires life, to love and see good days, Must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit. ¹¹ "He must turn away from evil and do good; He must seek peace and pursue it. ¹² "For the eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous, And His ears attend to their prayer, But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil." ¹³ Who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled, ¹⁵ but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; ¹⁶ and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong. **1 Peter 3:8-17**

Key Points: Pastor Dre gave four ways you can tip the scale of suffering.

1. Christian Fellowship.
2. The Cross Of Christ.
3. God's Love.
4. Your Witness

Big Idea: It is better to do God's will and suffer then to do evil. Suffering is a part of life, so let us be prepared to suffer well, in community and as community, for the sake of Christ, through which we will receive blessing...even if not in this world.

Understanding the Text:

- Discuss how we are called to live in community?
- Why does Peter contrast repaying evil with evil and blessing?
- How have we been called to such a counter cultural idea of response to evil?
- What is the relationship of doing good and suffering?
- Who receives blessing from suffering for righteousness?
- How are we to use the truth of the gospel in dealing with suffering for Jesus?
- Why is it important to suffer well when suffering for the sake of righteousness?

Application:

- Give an example of when you had to suffer for the sake of righteousness?
- What are the temptations you face when you are suffering for righteousness?
- What are the consequences if you give in to those temptations?
- What does it look like to repay evil with blessing?
- Do you tend to desire good days and the face of the Lord or revenge when hurt by others?
- How have you used the truth that is not in line with Peter's exhortation?
- How do you practically —set apart Christ as Lord in your life?
- What is the difference between shaming someone and letting your behavior put them to shame?
- When have you received blessing through suffering?

Start Doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Bless someone this week that is evil
- Bless someone this week that insults you

Dinner Discussion.

- How can suffering be a blessing?

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over online.

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