



House of New Beginnings

ShalomAZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption

"The Way that Healed the World"

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Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Texts: 1 Peter 2:18-25

Have you ever been stuck in a situation you didn't choose, where nothing felt fair and you couldn't change it? Maybe it's an oppressive workplace, a broken relationship, or a system that keeps you feeling small. That's the very place Peter was speaking to when he wrote to believers who were household servants—people without rights or power, living under the control of harsh masters. He didn't endorse the injustice. He didn't say it was good. But he did show them—and us—how to respond in a way that transforms hearts, starting with our own. And he points us toward the example of Yeshua, who overcame the world not by fighting for His own rights, but by laying them down.

1. WHEN YOU'RE POWERLESS, YOU'RE STILL FREE

Peter speaks first to the most powerless people in society—household slaves—and says, *"Submit yourselves with all respect... not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are crooked."* That's hard to hear. Everything inside us wants to fight back when we're mistreated. But Peter reminds us that even in situations we didn't choose, our identity is never stolen. He says we are free people—free to choose a different way. Free to show honor, even when we're dishonored. Free to do good, even when evil is done to us.

This isn't about endorsing oppression; it's about refusing to let the cruelty of others reshape our hearts into something bitter. It's about living as God's free servants, even when we're surrounded by injustice. The world says, "Get even." Yeshua says, "Show them a better Kingdom." When we remember who we belong to, we realize our true freedom isn't controlled by any human master.

2. FOLLOWING THE PATTERN OF THE LAMB

Peter goes deeper: *"You were called to this, because Messiah also suffered for you, leaving you an example so you might follow in His footsteps."* When insulted, Yeshua didn't retaliate. When threatened, He didn't threaten back. Instead, He entrusted Himself to the One who judges justly. He carried our sins in His own body on the cross, so that by His wounds, we could be healed.

Following Yeshua means letting Him set the pattern. It means saying, "Father, I trust You to see this. I trust You to be my defender." It means laying down the craving to repay evil for evil, and instead allowing God to purify what's in our hearts. When the world squeezed Yeshua, what came out was grace, forgiveness, and love. That's what He wants to shape in us. Not because it's easy—but because that's how darkness is overcome.

3. BECOMING A LIVING STONE IN A BROKEN WORLD

Peter ends with a reminder: *“You were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.”* When you feel unseen and unheard, when you suffer for doing right, remember this—He is watching over you. He sees every tear and every sacrifice. He is building something beautiful with your life, something this world can’t understand.

You are a living stone, joined to the rejected Cornerstone. You’re part of a different kind of revolution—one that isn’t characterized by grabbing for power, but laying it down in love. When you walk in Yeshua’s footsteps, you become a testimony to the world that there is another way, a Kingdom way, a way that healed the world. And it all begins by letting His life be your example.

CONCLUSION:

Today, maybe you’ve been fighting to prove yourself or battling bitterness in a situation you can’t control. Maybe you feel crushed by injustice or by the weight of carrying wounds that weren’t your fault. Yeshua is inviting you to bring all of it to Him. To entrust yourself to the One who judges righteously. To say, “Lord, shape my heart to look like Yours.”

If you’re ready to surrender the need for revenge, the burden of proving yourself, and the ache of unhealed wounds, respond today. Come to the Shepherd and Guardian of your soul. Let Him lead you, heal you, and fill you with a love stronger than any injustice. Follow the Lamb who laid down everything to set you free.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Where in your life do you feel powerless or mistreated? How does remembering your freedom in Messiah change your perspective?
2. What does it look like to entrust an unfair situation to God instead of taking matters into your own hands?
3. When you are “squeezed,” what usually comes out? How can you let God transform your reactions?
4. Why do you think Peter points to Yeshua’s example rather than offering a plan for overthrowing injustice?
5. How can your life be a testimony to God’s Kingdom, even in circumstances you can’t change?

CLOSING PRAYER:

Abba Father, we thank You for Yeshua, who suffered without sin, who laid down His life to heal our brokenness. Help us to follow in His footsteps. When we feel powerless, remind us of our freedom in You. When we are mistreated, fill us with Your compassion. Change what’s inside of us so that what comes out is love, grace, and truth. We entrust our wounds and our situations to You, the One who judges righteously. Make us living stones that show the world Your goodness.

In Yeshua’s name. Amen.