



## Week 6

**Sermon Series:** Sojourners & Exiles: 1 Peter

**Sermon Title:** Finding a Reason to Suffer Pt 1

**Sermon Text:** 1 Peter 3:13-17

**Group Week of:** October 9, 2022

**Sermon Date:** October 16, 2022

Scriptures for Additional Daily Studies	
Day 1	Righteous VS Evil – Psalm 36
Day 2	Beatitudes – Matthew 5:3-12
Day 3	Do Not Fear – Isaiah 8:11-18
Day 4	Giving an Answer – Colossians 4:2-6
Day 5	Suffering for God – 1 Peter 4:1-6

## The Text

- 1) **Read** the text slowly and carefully.
- 2) **Pray** for understanding, insight, and transformation.
- 3) **Observe Everything.** Use pens and highlighters to mark the text. Come up with your own system of symbols, underlines, arrows, highlights, and notes, that will *help you understand and apply*. Only do what is helpful.
- 4) **Answer** the interpretive questions at the bottom.

<sup>13</sup>Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? <sup>14</sup>But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. “Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.” <sup>15</sup>But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, <sup>16</sup>keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. <sup>17</sup>For it is better, if it is God’s will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

## Textual Questions

- 1) What is the message God and Peter are speaking to the church in Asia Minor (and to you) through this passage?
- 2) Go back and read 1 Peter 3:8-12. How does the quoted text (Psalm 34:12-16) function in Peter’s argument?
- 3) How does God’s will in verse 17 help the person who is going through suffering?

## Discussion Guide Questions

- 1) Have you ever gotten in trouble for doing the right thing? Share your story with your life group. Be sure to give special attention to how getting in trouble made you feel, and how you processed/interpreted the event.
  
- 2) We gravitate towards an understanding of blessing that involves peace, security, money, and a loving family. Here Peter says those who suffer for good are blessed. How should we understand this word “blessed” given what Peter says here and what Jesus says in the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12).
  
- 3) Peter shows that fearing the threats of man and revering Christ in our hearts are attitudes of the heart that should not coexist. In fact, revering Christ should cancel out the fear of threats. Are there any threats to you that bring you fear? This could include threats from people, or just dangers in life. Do you handle those fears through reverence for Christ? Why or why not? How can revering Christ change our attitude towards earthly fear?
  
- 4) What does it mean to “always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that you have”? Does this apply only to suffering, or more broadly to “apologetics”? Why or why not?
  
- 5) Case Study: Bill works for a large tech company. He is frequently the highest performer on his team, he goes out of his way to help people around him, he takes the hardest jobs and the worst hours, and he does all of this in order to do his best to love his coworkers for the glory of God. One day, one of Bill’s coworkers asks him why he is always working so hard and sacrificing himself for the team. Bill shares with his coworker that he is a believer in Jesus. He explains that he has been radically changed by the love of Christ, that he cannot help but love his coworkers when he thinks of how Christ has loved him. Bill’s coworker is a staunch atheist and walks away deeply offended by Bill’s beliefs. He reports Bill to their HR department saying that Bill has violated company policies on religion and wants Bill to be fired. He has a meeting with HR tomorrow to discuss what he did and why. What counsel would you give Bill?
  
- 6) Knowing that suffering occurs not because God wants to hurt us, or that God has forgotten about us, but because God wills the suffering for good, brings incredible comfort to us in the midst of struggle *if* we believe that to be true. Does verse 17 provide you with strength and comfort or fear? Why? Share where you are with your group and seek their encouragement.