

Responding to Mistreatment

Finding hope in the midst of mistreatment seems like a contradiction, yet God shows us that there are positive results that can come to us and others if we respond properly.

- **Day One. Commended by God**

Read 1Peter 2:18-20; Matthew 5:11-12; 2Timothy 2:8-12; 4:6-8

Think back to a time when you received recognition for something positive you did. How did it make you feel when you received it? How does receiving a commendation motivate you for the future? How did Paul's anticipation of Christ's commendation motivate him? How does it motivate you?

Pray. Ask God to help you see mistreatment as an opportunity for God's commendation.

- **Day Two. Conformed to Christ**

Read 1Peter 2:21-23; Isaiah 53:7; Luke 23:34, 46-47

What is your initial reaction when you are mistreated? Anger? Retaliation? How did Christ's response differ? What were his key responses? Picture yourself being mistreated and responding as Jesus did. How does it feel?

Pray. Ask God to help you respond to mistreatment as Jesus did.

- **Day Three. Converting others**

Read 1Peter 2:24-25; Romans 12:19-21; 1Peter 3:1-2

Who is the person who has most mistreated you in your life? Have you forgiven them? Do you pray for them? Have you done good to them? Do you sincerely desire their salvation?

Pray. Ask God to give you a heart of compassion toward those who mistreat you. Ask him to make you an instrument of healing in their lives.

New Life Lessons
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Pastor Dave Vasquez

Finding Hope In Injustice

1 Peter 2:18-25

2Timothy 3:12 (NIV) ¹² In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted...

John 15:20 (NIV) ²⁰ Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also.

Matthew 16:24 (NIV) ²⁴ "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."

Isaiah 9:7 (NIV) ⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.
Psalm 82:3-4; Isaiah 58:6

1Peter 2:18-25 (NIV) ¹⁸ Slaves, submit yourselves to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. ¹⁹ For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God. ²⁰ But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God.

²¹ To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. ²² "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." ²³ When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

How do we find hope in injustice?

1. Suffering unjustly commends us to God.

1Peter 2:18-19 (NIV) ¹⁸ Slaves, submit yourselves to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. ¹⁹ For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God.

Matthew 5:11-12 (NIV) ¹¹ “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Romans 8:17 (NIV) ¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs —heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

2. Suffering unjustly conforms us to Christ.

1Peter 2:21 (NIV) ²¹ To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

We bear his name...

1Peter 4:14-16 (NIV) ¹⁴ If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. ¹⁵ If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. ¹⁶ However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.

Acts 5:40-41 (NIV) ⁴⁰ [The Sanhedrin] called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹ The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.

We share his experience...

Philippians 3:10 (NIV) ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death...

Colossians 1:24 (NIV) ²⁴ Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. 1Corinthians 12:26

1Peter 5:9 (NIV) ⁹ Resist [the devil], standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

We imitate his responses...

1Peter 2:23 (NIV) ²³ When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats... Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

3. Suffering unjustly can convert others.

1Peter 2:24 (NIV) ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

Romans 12:19-21 (NIV) ¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord. ²⁰ On the contrary: “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.” ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

1Peter 3:1-2 ¹ Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, ² when they see the purity and reverence of your lives.