Enduring Unjust Suffering

Greg Kline · 1 Peter 2:18–25

INTRODUCTION

- There is no greater example of facing suffering, true suffering that is unjust than what Jesus endured … on the cross.
- We have been called to this because Christ also has already suffered for you. And what has he done? Left you an example, so you might follow in his footsteps.
- It's not at all about what's right or just, because if that was the case, Jesus would have never died.

1 Stand Up for Doing What's Right

Mark 2:13–17

- Jesus, of course, … would stand up for doing what's right, no matter what.
- Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.
- When someone makes an accusation against you, not retaliating doesn't mean you're a doormat.
- As always, Jesus was focused on his work from God and the souls he was there to help.

2 He Didn't Retaliate With Violence

Matthew 26:47–56

- Jesus said to him, friend, do what you came to do.
- Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword.
- Jesus' focus is always to do God's will and to take care of our souls.
- When physical violence is brought to Jesus, he didn't retaliate.

3 Sometimes Silence Is Golden

Matthew 26:59–63; Matthew 27:11–14

- He gave him no answer, not even to a single charge. … So that the governor was greatly amazed.
- But he didn't feel the need to correct every sort of misconception and misnomer.
- Oftentimes, silence is a fantastic option of response. We need to think before we speak, and it would save us a whole lot of trouble.
- When we're treated unjustly, when words fly at us that are meant to hurt, … Sometimes silence is golden.

4 Jesus Was Willing to Offer Forgiveness

Luke 23:32–34

- And Jesus said, Father, forgive them. For they know not what they do.
- In the face of the most unjust suffering this world has ever seen? Jesus was willing to offer forgiveness.

5 Fighting Our Impulses to Strike Back

Matthew 5:38–42; Romans 12:17–21

- Am I willing to stand up for what's right no matter what?
- Retaliation, though, is not in the Christian playbook.
- But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.
- Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God. For it is written, Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.
- We're teaching ourselves by example that we can't rely on God to administrate justice.

6 We Have to Be Willing to Forgive

Matthew 6:14–15; Matthew 18:15–17

- You will only be forgiven insofar as you forgive others.
- If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone.
- Jesus is always focused on God's will and saving souls. And as his follower, I must be too.
- There's no room in God's will or saving souls for grudges, vengeance, or petty insults.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **If I remember where I've been, I can be more gracious. If I remember where I'm going, I can have more fortitude. And if I remember God is in control, I realize He has got this.**

MY NOTES