

"Responding to Injustice"

1 Peter 2:18-25; Luke 22-24

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"You who are servants, be good servants to your masters—not just to good masters, but also to bad ones. What counts is that you put up with it for God's sake when you're treated badly for no good reason. There's no particular virtue in accepting punishment that you well deserve. But if you're treated badly for good behavior and continue in spite of it to be a good servant, that is what counts with God. This is the kind of life you've been invited into, the kind of life Christ lived. He suffered everything that came his way so you would know that it could be done, and also know how to do it, step-by-step."

1 Peter 2:18-21, The Message

If we are going to follow in the footsteps of Jesus we must...

- A. Accept injustice and suffering as part of God's plan for us.
(Luke 22:42-43; 24:44-47)**

- B. Offer forgiveness to those who mistreat us.
(Luke 23:32-38)**

"Forgiveness—Mark 11:25—is essential. It is so insidiously pleasant to hold onto the 'right' to feel angry, hurt, depressed, vengeful, etc. Unless we forgive our childhood tormentors the way Jesus forgave us as we tormented Him on the cross, we will never have any spiritual freedom in our lives. This is merely an act of the will. We must *will* to forgive them and God works the forgiveness in our hearts."

Elisabeth Elliot, *A Path Through Suffering*,
Servant Publications, Ann Arbor, MI, 1990, p. 190.

- C. Not retaliate but instead entrust ourselves to our heavenly Father. (1 Peter 2:23)**

For further study read and reflect on: Isaiah 53, 1 Peter, Hebrews 12:1-3, Philippians 2:1-11.

“Open hands should characterize the soul’s attitude toward God—open to receive what He wants to give, open to give back what He wants to take. **Acceptance** of the will of God means relinquishment of our own. If our hands are full of our own plans, there isn’t room to receive His.”
page 69

“Each time the mystery of suffering touches us personally and all the cosmic questions arise afresh in our minds, we face the choice between faith (which **accepts**) and unbelief (which refuses to accept).”
page 98

“[Pascal’s] prayer gets at the heart of the solution: ‘You are the Sovereign Master. Do whatever pleases you. Give me or take away from me.’ **Acceptance** and relinquishment are the keys to our peace.”
page 108

“He wants to transform every form of human suffering into something glorious. He can redeem it. He can bring life out of death. Every event of our lives provides opportunity to learn the deepest lesson anyone can learn on earth, ‘My present life is not that of the old “I,” but the living Christ within me’ (Galatians 2:20, JPB). When our souls lie barren in a winter which seems hopeless and endless, God has not abandoned us. His work goes on. He asks our **acceptance** of the painful process and our trust that He will indeed give resurrection life.”
page 43

“The surrender of one’s will—what could be more certainly a death? But it is the condition of receiving God’s will, God’s life, God’s joy.”
page 23

The above quotes are from *A Path Through Suffering: Discovering the Relationship Between God’s Mercy and Our Pain* by Elizabeth Elliot. Copies are available at the book table in the Lobby this morning for a donation of \$10.00.