

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of March 3, 2013

This Week's Focus: In trying to live God-glorifying lives we will inevitably suffer, but it is a better witness to endure the trials and suffer for doing good than to repay with evil.

“True humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less.” C. S. Lewis

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

John 13:34-35

*So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved. **1 Corinthians 10:31-33***

This Week's Text: 1 Peter 3:8-17

Related Texts: Romans 8:31, Genesis 12:1-3, Luke 6:27-36, Psalm 34, James 3:1-12

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What has God spoken to you about regarding the sermon?
- Discuss the different types of suffering.
- What does it mean to have unity of mind?
 - What are some of the results of failing to have that unity?
- Who in your life has shown you sympathy? In what ways?
 - Who have you shown sympathy towards? In what ways?
 - Who is it hard for you to sympathize with?
- Why is it that most humans struggle with the command, “have a humble mind”?
 - How does a prideful mind make it harder to follow Jesus?

- Look closely at all 5 commands listed in verse 8. How can we practically apply these to our lives?
- According to Peter in verse 9, what are we not to do? What is the alternative we are called to? How is this contrary to our cultural norm?
- If we desire to “love life and see good days,” what should we do?
- Do you find it difficult to know or experience the love of God during times of suffering?
- According to verse 14, who are we not to fear. According to Peter 2:17, who are we to fear?
- What does it mean to honor “Christ as Lord” in your heart? What does that look like?
- Peter tells us to “always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you”. Are you prepared? What opportunities have opened up for you because of suffering?
 - Give an example of when you had to suffer for the sake of righteousness.
 - When have you received blessing through suffering?
- Why is it important to be respectful and gentle when sharing your faith?
- What are the temptations you face when you are suffering for righteousness?
 - Does suffering open the door to selfishness?
- Why is it better to attempt to and answer people’s questions rather than quarreling with them when they mistreat you for being a Christian?
- What is the difference between shaming someone and letting your behavior put him or her to shame?

Gospel Celebration:

- On the cross, rather than curse and revile, Jesus forgave His persecutors.
- Jesus willingly went to the cross and died for our sins, even though we were evil, revilers and rebels.
- It was our sin that nailed Him to the cross. Martin Luther said, “We all carry about in our pockets His very nails.”

Our Response:

- Look for opportunities to share your faith.
- Keep your tongue from evil.
- Bless others because God has blessed you “in Christ”

Next Week’s Text: 1 Peter 3:18-22