**Why Must We Suffer? #5**

June 14, 2020 – 1 Peter 2:18-25

**“Suffering Well”**

Perseverant suffering is a gracious thing in God’s sight (18-20)

Christ’s suffering provided an example for us to follow (21-23)

Christ’s suffering provided a basis for us to be healed by (24-25)

**“Suffering Well”**

**1 Peter 2:18-25**

Questions for discussion and reflection

1. When you think of suffering well or not suffering well what characteristics come to mind? How do you think that is similar of different from how God defines our suffering well?

2. Read 1 Peter 2:18-25. What is the context that Peter is writing to in verse 18? Why didn’t he call for the abolition of slavery as he addresses the practice here?

3. How did he command servants (who would have been the majority of his original readers) to live? As unfamiliar as Peter’s context is to ours, what principles are at work here that have any bearing on relationships that you have today? What are some ways that you experience unjust suffering caused by others?

4. What do you think it means that enduring unjust suffering is a gracious thing in God’s sight? Why does God view it that way? What does that communicate to you about the heart of God and what questions does that raise?

5. How did Jesus set an example for us in this? What did that look like, and why do you think we are called to follow that example?

6. What do your opportunities to follow or not follow the example of Jesus in this look like? What are some factors that make obedience in this way difficult? How does your flesh oppose the Spirit in this?

7. Besides being an example, what else did the sufferings of Christ achieve for us? What does that healing look like for you?

8. What stands out to you about this familiar image of the sheep and the Shepherd in this context? What does Peter tell us here about the nature of our true Master? How have you experienced Jesus as the Shepherd and Overseer of your soul?

Next week: 1 Peter 3:1-7