

Discussion Guide

Sincerely: wk6 Sacrificial Suffering

February 4, 2024



Big Idea

Being a follower of Jesus requires sacrificial suffering.



Icebreaker

What is a sacrifice you have chosen to endure (i.e. exercising, eating better, refusing to continue an addiction, etc.) which has led to positive results? Was the sacrifice hard; easy; worth it? Explain.



Discussion Questions

1. Read 1 Peter 3:8-11. Do you have a personal example where either you (or someone you know) has suffered (i.e. been talked badly about, retaliated against, etc.) for doing good? In that situation, what was your (or their) response? If it was a healthy response (in this case meaning making the choice to endure the suffering in humility & compassion versus reacting out of arrogance & pride) was chosen, was there an unhealthy response that you (or they) were tempted toward? What was that unhealthy response and how did you (or they) refuse making it?
2. Read 1 Peter 3:13-14, 17-18. Discuss together & list the different ways in which Jesus faced suffering and chose to endure it in humility and love as opposed to reacting otherwise. How does reflecting upon this help us to pursue our own personal sacrificial suffering? In what ways do our experiences of suffering mirror Christ's; in what ways are they different; how do they compare?
3. Read 1 Peter 4:1-4. A point in the sermon was this: *Sacrificial suffering reminds us that we are freed from our past.* Review the reading of 1 Peter 4:1-4 and make note of some of the *past language* applied to the believer as well as some of the *current language* applied to the believer. What did we used to live for, per this passage? What are we to be living for now & forever as believers, per this passage. What does living for this *PRACTICALLY* look like for you? Should living for this look the same, or different, for you in say...3, 5, &/or 10 years down the road and why or why not?
4. Read 1 Peter 4:7-8. Sometimes when you are suffering sacrificially to accomplish something or to get to some point in life, the final legs of that journey are the most difficult. Have you experienced this, or found it to be true and if so how? With that said, as the end of this age (Jesus' return) comes closer do you expect that living for and living out our faith in Christ will get easier or more difficult? If you said more difficult then you seem theologically correct. The question then is...what are you doing today to be strengthened for those days & times ahead shall they come when you are still physically alive?
5. Read 1 Peter 4:16 & Acts 5:41-42. We see here that sacrificial suffering is worthy of celebrating. Why and how? Is it difficult or easy to have this attitude & why or why not. What could help you have this attitude? Who is someone you have seen demonstrate this (other than Christ) attitude?



Concluding Question

Share an Observation &/or Application from your time engaging with this Sermon Series' reading plan.



Application

1. What do you think the Holy Spirit may be saying to you through this sermon and our discussion?
2. What is something God wants you to do now?
3. Is there a way we can help each other apply what God is showing us?



Prayer The season of Lent begins Wed., 2/14. Pray that in every environment of Revive Wesleyan during it can focus us on Christ & his sacrifice to prepare us well for the Easter celebration!