

EMBRACE WEIRD: It is better to suffer

- 1 Peter 3:13-22

KICKOFF

What stood out to you from the sermon, and what questions did it raise?

Pray for our time in God's word.

BIG IDEA: IT IS BETTER TO SUFFER

1 Peter 3:13-22 teaches that Christians can **embrace the blessing of unjust suffering** — honouring Christ as holy, doing good, and gently explaining their hope — **because of Christ's victory over unjust suffering**: his penal, substitutionary, atoning death and victorious resurrection, guaranteeing their final vindication.

Read 1 Peter 3:13-22

- What strikes you from the passage?
- What repeated ideas or contrasts do you notice in the passage?

From 1 Peter 3:13-17

- What are the key things Peter tells Christians to do and not do in these verses?
- How do these verses show the difference between suffering as a Christian and suffering for doing wrong? What do they teach about the mindset we're meant to have when we face opposition for our faith?
- In your life right now, where might you need to (a) keep doing good for Jesus and (b) be ready to explain your hope "with gentleness and respect"?

From 1 Peter 3:18

- What main gospel truths does verse 18 teach? Put it in your own words.
- How does this verse show that Jesus took our place and our penalty (penal substitutionary atonement), and why is that such good news?
- How does verse 18 help to equip you to do what verse 15 says?

From 1 Peter 3:19-22

Scott McKnight writes that, however we understand the details of these verses, we should "see this passage in light of its context ... the overall theme of vindication. Jesus was righteous and suffered for the unrighteous. God vindicated him by exalting him to his right hand. The churches of Peter need to know that if they remain faithful, like Jesus, they too will be vindicated."

- In your own words, how do vv19-22 show Jesus' vindication and victory after his suffering (even if some details are hard to understand)?
- How does knowing that Christ has already been vindicated, and that we will share in his vindication, help you to "embrace the blessing of unjust suffering" in real situations you have faced or may face in the future?

Prayer: In response to the passage.

Vision Prayer: Father God, by your grace, enable our church to be a city of refuge within the city of Brisbane. Empower me this week, by your Spirit, to offer one person the refuge, security, and hope found in Christ Jesus. Amen.