I Peter 2:18-20

 *“Wronged When Doing Right”*

Introduction

1. Life isn’t always fair. If we do wrong and have to pay we in some way expect it. What if you are wronged when you are doing right? It isn’t easy to take.

2. Peter is writing to *servants.* The word is different from the one in v. 16. The word here means, ‘house slave’ or ‘domestic slave’. In v. 16 it is ‘bond slave’. In the Roman Empire 1 in 3 in Italy were slaves with 10 to 20 million in the Empire. The Roman attitude was **there was no point in being master of the world and doing one’s own work.** Citizens lived in pampered idleness. House servants were doctors, teachers, musicians, stewards, secretaries. **The master was the law.**

The servants had absolutely no legal rights. Someone said, “A slave is a living tool.” “The only difference between a slave and a beast or farm yard cart is that a slave happens to be able to speak.”

3. In I Peter 2:18-20 some of these slaves have been saved…now what? Some had masters who were kind, good and caring. Others remained cruel and heartless. These were wronged when doing right.

4. Have you been wronged when doing right?

5. I Peter 2:18-20 sets forth 3 principles when we are wronged:

Have you been wronged when doing right?

**I. THE PRINCIPLE OF SUBMISSION 2:18**

 *Masters* from which we get our English word ‘*despot’.* It is one with unlimited power and

 authority. *Servants be subject with all fear.*

 ***A. The Manner or Attitude 18a***

*Subject with all fear*

1. *Masters…*Don’t fight what you cannot change.
2. *Subject* is submission. It means to voluntarily put yourself under their authority.

*\**Someone must lead. Someone must be in charge.

*\**Don’t try to undermine those in authority. It is a dangerous precedent we see being set in the USA as police, teachers, and parents’ authority is being challenged. The Lord has placed us in a particular situation. What right do we have to complain about what God has done or is doing?

**3.** *With all fear*

\*The word is used in (1:17) of God. I don’t want to displease, thus I stand in awe

 of God.

 \*I bring God into the situation. Submit first to God. Do it for Jesus! We are to

 let Christ live in us in every situation, under all conditions. We are to reflect

 Jesus in the submission.

 ***B. The Measure or Action* *18b***

*Not only to the good and gentle, but also to the perverse.*

1. Peter realized that life wasn’t always fair or easy.
2. Life can be difficult. Some Christians ‘have it easy’ (often because of the choices they have made) while in the providence and permission of God others hurt. Life is difficult and ‘unfair’.
3. We don’t pick or choose our lot in life. We are responsible for our attitudes, actions and reactions.

Have you been wronged when doing right?

**II. THE PRINCIPLE OF SUFFERING 2:19**

*A man* the scope goes beyond *slave*. It shines on all.

1. ***The Pain***

*Endure grief…suffer wrongly…endure unjust suffering*

1. We are part of a fallen world. *The whole creation groans (Rom 8:22) We ourselves also groan (I Cor. 5:3)*
2. Sometimes tears will flow and your heart will break when you are in the center of God’s will.
3. Your actions, attitude and reactions are right and you still *endure grief…suffer wrongly. “Cheer up, things could be worse. I cheered up and sure enough things got worse.”*
4. *A person bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly. (NASV)*
5. ***The Praise***

*For this is thankworthy…for this is favor (NASV)*

**1.** Our word *grace* comes from this word. This is the grace of God in action!

**2.** God takes note. The word *credit* (Lk. 6:32-34) Three times *What credit is that to you?* It is used after doing something: *If you love them who love you…What thanks (credit) have ye? If you do good to them who do good to you…What thanks (credit) have ye? If you lend to them whom you hope to receive…What thanks (credit) have ye?*

v. 35 *But love your enemies…do good…your reward will be great…you will be the sons of the highest.* ***Great reward!***

 ***C. The Power***

*For conscience toward God* There is nothing meritorious in merely suffering.

1. *Conscience toward God* is to be mindful of God…to be aware of God’s presence.
2. Peter implies with the conscious presence of God…God gives the necessary strength to bear the pain.

\*He extends His mercy and grace, and is in full control of every situation.

\*He may not change the circumstances, but He will walk with you through the circumstance.

\*Because of his awareness of God, the Christian is able to endure the injustice. This is often seen in the stories of a concentration camp.

\*With the right actions, attitude and reaction there is an unseen observer: God says, *“Thank you.”*

*\*Blessed are they who are persecuted for righteousness sake for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when men shall revile you and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad for great is your reward in heaven. (Mt. 5:10-12)*

Have you been wronged when doing right?

**III. THE PRINCIPLE OF SACRIFICE 2:20**

 ***A. The Retribution 20a***

Sometimes we are getting what we deserve.

1. *Buffeted* means to strike with a fist.

*\**The word is used in (Mk 14:65) *some began to spit on Him and cover His face and to buffet Him.*

*\**Suffering for suffering sake is not what is commended.

 **2.** *Faults* is the word *sin. Sin* means to miss the mark. You continually mess up.

 You produce much less than expected.

 \*If that is the case…you continually make wrong choices, you deserve it. Take it.

 Quit feeling sorry for yourself.

 \*Make changes. Improve. Quit taking ‘stupid pills’. You represent Jesus

 Christ. You are a poor reflection on your owner!!

 ***B. The Reward 20b***

God notes the wrong. *Does Jesus Care? I know He cares.* He is supremely

 interested in how we react once the wrong has been done. *These find favor with God.* It

 is an offering acceptable to God.

1. **The Reason** *When you do well and suffer…when you do what is right (NASV)*

 **\***You do what is right and wrong comes…and it will.

 **\***When your best isn’t good enough and you are wronged when you do right…you suffer…you hurt!

 **2. The Reaction** *You take it patiently…you patiently endure*

 \*You react in a Christ-like manner

 **\***If there is an untruth, unreasonableness…you will suffer and it will hurt no

 matter how godly you are.

  **\**“****It’s not right”* **It may not be God’s will for that person to act as they**

 **are…but it is God’s will for you!**

 ***“Life isn’t fair” BUT THAT’S WHEN THE LIFE OF CHRIST MAKES THE BIGGEST IMPACT!!***