



Series Title: "Exiles: A Study of the First Letter of Peter"

Date: March 6, 2022

Message Title: "Suffering as Exiles"

Teaching: Neal McKinney

Reference: 1 Peter 3:8-17

Here are some key points from the passage:

- Part of living as exiles is understanding the mission/vision/purpose of the Church. Do we truly "get it?" The way we live every day, the way we respond to the challenges and distractions of the day should show others the truth about our adoptive Father.
- The basis and motivation for everything we do should be the gospel—the person and work of Jesus Christ.
- Peter gives us five visible characters of our lives as exiles: unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, tender hearts and humble minds.
- While we do not earn the blessings we receive from God (there's no way we can), there are those that come to us as we practice loving others as Christ does. This is impossible to our natural being; it requires supernatural ability that comes from the Holy Spirit.
- The world is a dark place, as we do face mistreatment from those who don't like the gospel message. Being treated poorly for doing good happens. But we have hope—and we need to be ready to lovingly, humbly explain the source and object of our hope.
- We should be blessing others, returning good for evil.

Message Notes:

Recap of 1 Peter thus far: We are exiles, aliens and sojourners, strangers in the land. God has chosen us and has given us (given the Church) a clear and simple vision: to be people who love him and love people, and to make disciples of all the nations.

As exiles, set apart, we are supposed to respond to the challenges and distractions of the day differently from the world around us. This difference should clearly show the world how great and gracious our God is.

We read vv. 8-9 with skepticism. "Me? Repay evil with good? I don't think so!" I mean, how far am I expected to go with this? Where's the line?"

Peter lists characteristics of our relationships with each other that will show the world the nature of our heavenly Father. None of these are possible in our natural selves; they require the supernatural presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

- **Unity of Mind** means harmony, being cooperative in our mission even with our individual differences. It is living out the shared implications of the gospel.
- **Sympathy** means suffering with another person by entering into and sharing their feelings. This isn't our inclination; it is our calling.
- **Brotherly love** is familial love—I want to do what's best for you. It means "being there" for others even when we don't want to. This love comes only from God.
- **Tender heart** means that others' sin causes us to feel sadness and compassion. We need to understand the full truth of the gospel for this.
- **Humble mind** comes as we recognize that our own need is as great as anyone else's, that I am not better than you. We all need Christ.

We are instructed to bless others. And while we cannot earn our standing with God, there are blessings that come as we do this. Peter echoes Jesus' words in Luke 6:27-29.

