

Weekly Cell Guide

Leader's Copy

Series - 1 Peter
Topic - The Price of Doing Good
(1 Peter 3:13-17)

Date - 25-Oct-2020
Speaker - SP Ben KC Lee

WELCOME [15 min]

You may want to look up the following websites for *icebreakers* suitable for your cell.

[Ice Breakers 1](#)

[Ice Breakers 2](#)

WORSHIP [15 min]

You may select songs like

1. God I Look to You
2. Christ is Enough

WORD [45 min]

Spiritual Objectives

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Commit to doing good, even when it isn't always well-received, rather than avoid suffering by refusing to do good.
2. Be governed by one great goal in life – to be obedient to Christ – and use any opportunity to witness.

Sermon Summary

The following are the key points of the sermon:

1. God calls us to faithfulness even if we meet resistance and opposition for doing what is right.
2. We can either fear suffering and tell a bad story when we live as a poor witness, or we can make Christ Lord over our heart and tell a good story.
3. The best witness in this often hostile world combines good behaviour with thoughtful words under Christ's lordship.

Sermon Recap (Full Summary)

1. Doing what is right doesn't always go well for us (v 13-14)

Most of the time, living a godly life will make our life better (v 13). Doing the right thing results in a good outcome, usually. But sometimes living a godly life leads to suffering (v 14a). Peter recognises that doing good is not always received well. Even so it is better to suffer and do good, than to avoid suffering by refusing to do good. We should consider ourselves blessed when we suffer for doing what is right, knowing that we will be rewarded in this life, as well as in the next.

“But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you.” (Luke 6:27)

“Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” (Matthew 5:10-12)

2. Always honour Christ as Lord in our heart (v 15a)

The person doing evil toward us is not the one we ultimately need to worry about. We must have Christ as the sole object of our love, reverence, loyalty and obedience. This is the key to overcoming our fear of man. While some of us struggle with the fear of men, which prevents us from sharing or being open with our faith, we must remember that our safety doesn't lie in protecting ourselves, but in the giving away of ourselves for the sake of others.

“Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.” (Matthew 10:28)

“The Lord Almighty is the one you are to regard as holy, he is the one you are to fear, he is the one you are to dread” (Isaiah 8:13)

3. Tell a good story of hope to others (vv 15b-17)

We should stand ready with the gospel, to tell the story of meeting Jesus and the difference He has made in our life. A crisis creates opportunities for witness, as people far away from God are watching our response. When we share, do so with gentleness and respect (v 15c). As an outcome, we may win the respect of those who previously caused our suffering (v 16b), and possibly lead them towards this eternal hope..

“But before all this, they will lay hands on you and persecute you. They will deliver you to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name. This will result in your being witnesses to them. But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict.” (Luke 21:12-15)

Conclusion

We are called to do good, and there may be times that we have to pay a price for doing good. God calls us to faithfulness even if we meet resistance and opposition for doing what is right. Knowing and trusting that the Lord is in total control allows us to rest.

Discussion Questions

- 1. Have you experienced or encountered an occasion where a Christ-like action was met with a negative and hostile reception? [15 min]**

Leaders' Notes

This is a relate question. You can encourage your members to share their experiences or something they have witnessed where a Christ-like action was met with a negative response. This may include honouring a boss that others deemed unworthy; not gossiping about a nasty boss; not retaliating against a difficult individual; etc.

Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving to The Next Question)

Doing good in the world may not always be met with a positive response from non-believers. To be counter-cultural, we must be prepared to face opposition for doing what is right, and not just to follow the path of least resistance.

- 2. Is suffering while doing good for God the exception or the rule? In what ways can a Christian be blessed as a result of righteous suffering? [15 min]**

Leaders' Notes

Read Matthew 10:11-12, 1 Peter 4:19, 1 Peter 3:17. Peter in particular knew that believers would face persecution for doing good, and that such suffering would be a normal part of the Christian life. God often wills that we suffer unjustly and that we bear it by his grace and for his glory. That is why in 1 Peter, he focused on encouraging how believers are to think about suffering unjustly for the name of Christ, and how to respond with a fearless, Christ-honouring hope.

We must remember that there is a reward of blessing when we suffer persecution while doing His will. Many verses in the Bible point to this, e.g. 1 Peter 4:13-14 and Romans 8:17. Jesus also said in Matthew 5:10-12, in reference to persecution for His sake, that we should "rejoice, and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great." We have the opportunity now of participating in that future glory, to the praise and splendour of Christ when He returns. There is also a present blessedness when we are persecuted for Christ, as we come to know more of the reality of God in our lives (1 Peter 4:14). No earthly suffering – as long as you are suffering for the sake of Jesus – can compromise your eternal destiny, living hope, and heavenly inheritance. In fact, it confirms our eternal destiny. Furthermore, earthly suffering purifies us by testing the genuineness of our faith and prepares us to take hold of that blessing.

Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving to The Next Question)

Most people in the world react negatively to the idea of suffering for doing the right thing. But as Christians, faith in God helps us to focus on our eternal hope, to help us endure suffering for righteousness sake, and to bear a powerful witness to what we value most in life.

- 3. Why should we continue to do good (Christ-like actions) when we receive negative responses as a result? What can be done to help us persevere through these troubles? [15 min]**

Leaders' Notes

"Eagles fly. Ducks quack." This is a quote from the movie, "The Mighty Ducks." It is so true that eagles often soar alone and not in groups, unlike ducks. The pilgrimage journey that we are on can often be a lonely journey because it is a road less travelled. That is why it is counter-cultural. We continue to do good because firstly it honours the Lord. This is Who we ultimately live our lives for. Secondly, people appreciate depth in character, even though they may not respond positively to you. By doing good, you present yourself as a person without blame, thus making your witness more powerful.

These are practical things you can do to persevere through these troubles:

- a) Find comfort, encouragement and strength in your spiritual community (cell and church).*

- b) *Focus on the destination – Christ-likeness – and not on the immediate situation.*
- c) *Remind yourself of the teachings of Christ that are relevant for your difficult situation.*

Closing

We are called to be salt and light in this world. This may not always be received well by the world. However, we persevere on, just as Christ did when He was in the world. He is our example and our goal is to follow likewise. So, let us not give up doing good no matter how difficult a situation is for us.

WORKS [10 min]

Response to Message

- Pray that we allow all our attitudes, thoughts and actions be determined by Christ in response to opposition; that we are not overcome by evil but we overcome evil with good.

COVID-19 – Phase 3

- Pray for a smooth transition to Phase 3 in the coming weeks, and that people will not let their guard down while continuing to keep the infection at bay.
- Pray for God’s protection over RiverLife and other churches as they carefully return to onsite services in stages.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Joining The Family

Sat, 7 Nov | 10.30am-12pm | Online via Zoom

Sign up online at rlc.sg/jointhefam by Sun, 1 Nov. For more information, please contact Karen Koh at karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg

Note: This course is a pre-requisite for Associate Membership. Getting water baptised in RiverLife does not confer church membership though water baptism is a requirement for membership

Church Vision

“A radiant disciple-making church catalysing Kingdom transformation in our communities and the nations.”

Mission

We exist to make disciples who behold Christ and reveal Him.