



Living Hope
1 Peter 3:8-22
Study Guide

Some of us are grieving the loss of the USA, as we know it. We certainly don't like the attack on truth, morality, dignity, and family. We are concerned about escalating crime, loss of freedoms, and a faltering economy. Some of us are wrestling with contempt, resentment, and cynicism. How should we handle what we are seeing? What should our attitude be? In the context of our passage, Peter is preparing the church for persecution. The insights we gain will help shape our attitudes towards those who do us harm.

1. Heart of Compassion.

Read 1 Peter 3:8-12. What does it mean to have these virtues of compassion towards others in verses 8-9? Give examples. What can motivate us to respond to others with compassion rather than contempt? Discuss.

2. A Mindset for Good

Read 1 Peter 3:13-17. Give an example of returning good for evil; either from your life or from someone you have known. How does "*honoring Christ*" and being ready to share the gospel ("*reason for the hope*") with someone help us to stay calm and not retaliate? Discuss. Restate the principle in verse 17 in your own words.

3. Eyes on Christ.

If we are honest, it is hard to live this way. At times we fail. What can help us is to allow Christ's example to inspire us. Read 1 Peter 3:18. What did the sufferings of Christ accomplish? How has that changed your life? How does that allow you to re-frame your sufferings?

4. Eyes on Christ- Noah

Read 1 Peter 3:19-22. The story of Noah is a 'type' of salvation. It reminds us of how we have been rescued. There is nothing that can happen to us outside of God's power (v. 22). How does that allow you to handle adversity from others? Discuss.

Application

Take an inventory of your heart. Do you have contempt or resentment towards someone? Ask God to help you to be compassionate and loving towards someone who has harmed you.

Message Slides **1 Peter 3:8-22**

What does freedom mean to you?

What does freedom mean to a Christian?

Big Idea: My Attitude towards Hostility can be Shaped by Christ

1 Pet. 4:1- "Since Christ suffered...arm yourselves with the same purpose..."

What about war?

1. Earthly world

2. Kingdom of Heaven

A. Heart of Compassion (v. 8-12)

⁸Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. ⁹Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.

A Prayer of St. Nikolai of Ochrid

Bless my enemies, O Lord. Even I bless them and do not curse them.

Enemies have driven me into Thy embrace more than friends have.

Friends have bound me to earth, enemies have loosed me from earth.

Truly enemies have cut me loose from the world and have stretched out my hands to the hem of Thy garment.

A. Heart of Compassion (v. 8-12)

¹⁰ For "Whoever desires to **love life** and see **good days**, let him **keep his tongue** from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; ¹¹ let him **turn away from evil** and **do good**; let him **seek peace** and pursue it. ¹² For the **eyes of the Lord** are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the **face of the Lord** is against those who do evil."

B. A Mindset For Good (v. 13-17)

¹³ Now who is there to harm you if you are **zealous for** what is **good**? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be **blessed**. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵ but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a **reason for the hope** that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ having a **good conscience**, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

C. Eyes Set on Christ (v. 18-22)

¹⁸ **For Christ also suffered** once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,

C. Eyes Set on Christ (v. 18-22)- A Type of Christ- Noah's story

¹⁹ in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ because they formerly **did not obey**, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, **were brought safely through water**.²¹ Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and **powers having been subjected to him**.

Big Idea: My Attitude towards Hostility can be Shaped by Christ