



Retaliation

Note: The Scripture references in this hand-out are taken from the New King James Version.

Warm-up Discussion: Why is submission to authority so difficult for some people?

1 Peter 2:18-25 - ¹⁸ Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh. ¹⁹ For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. ²⁰ For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God. ²¹ For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: ²² "Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth"; ²³ who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; ²⁴ who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness-- by whose stripes you were healed. ²⁵ For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

How does this passage apply to us today?

How should employees should treat their bosses?

Why should we submit to those in authority over us?
Romans 13:1-2 - Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.

Why does God allow evil authorities to come into power?

How far should we go in obeying an evil authority?
Acts 4:19 - Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge.

When is it commendable to endure grief and suffering?

When do we deserve grief and suffering?

What is the distinction between grief and suffering?

Why should we endure unjust suffering? (1 Peter 2:19)

Why are Christians expected to endure suffering?

John 15:20 – “Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you.”

Why is it that we are to endure suffering patiently?

Romans 8:18 - For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Matthew 5:10-12 - Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Why should we rejoice when we are persecuted for Christ?

How did Jesus set the example of patiently enduring grief and suffering?

Why didn't Jesus retaliate against His persecutors?
Romans 12:19 - Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

What is the good that came from Jesus' suffering?

What does 1 Peter 2:24 mean when it says, “by whose stripes you were healed?”

How were we like sheep going astray?

Why do you think Peter elevated submission as the first and best response of employees to employers?

Why do you think God values our suffering for injustices?

How was Jesus able to resist the urge to retaliate?

What do you suppose would have happened if Jesus had retaliated against His persecutors?
Matthew 26:53 - do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?

Wrap-up Discussion: What are some examples of Christ-like responses to authority?