

## # 5: "With Christ in my ... work?"

### The Message

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#### Message Worksheet

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#### Passage:

1 Peter 2:18-25

#### Big Idea:

**Unique point of view:** For the Christian, suffering at work is a really good thing

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**What's at stake:** it's our greatest opportunity to make Jesus visible

#### Audience Journey:

**Where They Are:** We aren't good at work, when we suffer, we complain and seek escape

**Where I Want Them to be:** Working hard, make Jesus visible by suffering well

#### Application:

Hard work, suffer like Jesus, because in Christ you have received everything

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#### Outline Message

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## Introduction

### Introduction to the Series

Formed by gospel: the gospel changes who we are, and calls us to live according to our new identity.

We will look at the question: how does the gospel change the way I work and how I react when I am treated badly at work?

### Personal note:

Despite being a pastor/preacher, I understand having a job. I work at a normal job. This message is not just theory for me. :)

### It won't be for you if...

The message today is not for you if 1) you don't work, study, do something in life or 2) if your work is perfect, not hard, you never have any complaints at work, never are treated poorly there.

### Idea of the passage: For the Christian, suffering at work is a really good thing

in the injustices, difficulties and demands of our work, we enter into solidarity with the sufferings of Christ. His gospel, and our participation in it, shape how we persevere at work and how we react to bad treatment there

## The Message

What is	What could be
<p><b>Work: The least spiritual area</b> of our lives</p> <p>Endured: because we have to</p> <p>Separated: from our spiritual life</p> <p>When asked about the status of your relationship with God, you tell of your time with God, reading the Bible, praying and fasting, working with Jesus; you start talking about how you work at your job or school</p>	<p><b>Peter connects our work with our relationship with God</b></p> <p>1 Peter 2:18 "Servants"</p> <p>This passage applies to us if we can make a comparison between slaves then and employees now</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>It isn't a misuse of the text to apply it to the work we do (at the factory, office, school, college, or home)</li></ul> <p>1 Peter 2:18 "Be subject"</p> <p>Submission</p> <p>1 Peter 2:18 "unbearable"</p> <p>We suffer at work</p>
<p><b>We don't Suffer well</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>complain</li></ul>	<p><b>We Receive God's favor</b></p> <p>1 Peter 2:19-20</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• run away</li> <li>• react back</li> <li>• work worse</li> </ul> <p>suffering doesn't come naturally when it is not fair (and in our mind, is almost never fair)</p>	<p>is as if God smile at us when we go through difficulties at work as if he puts his hand on our back and walks along with us Peter teaches us there is a great benefit in suffering it has its roots in understanding and valuing finding grace of God we apply this by enduring suffering, rather than complaining or trying to avoid, because here we find something better</p> <p>For Christians, suffering at work is a really good thing</p>
<p><b>We deserve it</b> (many times) When we suffer we deserve it</p>	<p><b>The best workers/students/etc</b> 1 Peter 2:20 We are inspired with the vision to work so well that if someone complains about us, yells at us, insults us: it is unfairly</p>
<p><b>We expect to not have to suffer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That a "fair" boss exists</li> <li>• That an "easy" job is out there</li> <li>• That a "non-biased" teacher will teach our next class</li> </ul> <p>That it can and will get better</p>	<p><b>Called to suffer</b> 1 Peter 2:21 Being a Christian (follower of Jesus) is a call to suffer (in general, especially at work)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christ suffered, his followers will suffer</li> </ul>
<p><b>How should we suffer?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In practical terms</li> </ul>	<p><b>Suffer like Christ</b> 1 Peter 2:21-24 He is our Saviour (not necessarily FROM suffering, but IN suffering) in any suffering (especially at work) we are called to suffer like Christ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• it wasn't his fault (we should be the best workers)</li> <li>• He didn't talk back</li> <li>• He didn't return the same bad treatment</li> <li>• He put his life in the hands of God (trust God's sovereignty even in injustice)</li> </ul> <p>For Christians, suffering at work is a very good thing</p>
<p><b>Injustice kills us</b> can not bear it when we get treated unfairly when we have to do more than the other, when they</p>	<p><b>what we have in Christ is very unfair</b> 1 Peter 2:24-25 The reason that we suffer in this way, is because</p>

<p>treat us badly. We react to it: if we feel that we don't deserve to be treated like that</p>	<p>Christ suffered and by doing so, we are reconciled with God. We deserved eternal death, we had rebelled against the Supreme Being of the universe, we had offended and ignored the Almighty. And Christ suffered for us to be at peace with God. (This puts everything in perspective when we suffer, it gives us an eternal perspective) We give the grace we have received It makes the suffering of the moment, how we react to injustice, the difficulty and suffering: comes from the salvation and peace with God we have for the Christian suffering at work is a really good thing</p>
<p><b>Next Step</b></p> <p>Christian: Change your attitude at work they treat you wrong:suffer like Christ It's hard :suffer like Christ You want to respond/talk back: respond like Christ did you get discouraged, find your strength in your solidarity with Jesus</p> <p>Non-Christian: enter in This passage calls the person who hasn't made the decision to enter into this: 1 Peter 2:24-25 You can have when you decide to follow Jesus.</p>	

### Communion

1 Peter 2:22-25  
remember Jesus, we give thanks for Jesus