



BIBLE-BASED
FELLOWSHIP
CHURCH
TAMPA BAY

MIDWK LOCKED-IN

Remaining Focused under Pressure
A Study of 1 and 2 Peter.

Week Six

Do the Right Thing

1 Peter 3:8-22

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Do the Right Thing

Spike Lee's 1989 film, *Do the Right Thing*, takes place on the hottest day of summer in a Brooklyn neighborhood. Mookie, played by Spike Lee, delivers pizzas for Sal's Famous Pizzeria, a neighborhood fixture run by an Italian American owner Sal, who has been there for twenty-five years. Early in the film, Da Mayor, played by Ozzie Davis, stops Mookie with one piece of advice: "Always do the right thing." Mookie asks, "That's it?" Da Mayor answers, "That's it."

This occurs right after Buggin' Out notices that Sal's "Wall of Fame" shows only Italian American faces, and he wants to know why no Black faces hang in a business that Black customers keep open. Tempers rise with the temperature. At closing time, Radio Raheem and Buggin' Out walk into Sal's with the music blasting, and an argument explodes. Sal smashes the radio with a bat which incites a fight that spills into the street. The police arrive, and an officer chokes Radio Raheem to death with a nightstick. Mookie, the man who has spent the whole film trying to keep the peace and keep his job, picks up a trash can and throws it through Sal's window. The crowd pours in, and the pizzeria burns.

Most of us have lived on some version of that block. We know what it feels like when the heat is on, when disrespect piles up, when something unjust happens right in front of us and everybody turns to see what we will do.

Peter writes to believers living on a hot block of their own. And where the film leaves the question open, Peter answers it. Being locked-in is about staying focused and faithful to Jesus when life puts pressure on you. Over the last few weeks, Peter has shown us who we are (chosen, holy, God's own people) and how that identity plays out under authority at work, in government, and at home.

This week he turns to the hardest pressure of all: what to do when people treat you wrong. What might this look like in practice to remain focused under pressure even when the heat is turned up?

Study Objectives

1. Recognize the reality of suffering when doing right.
2. Respond to suffering with faithful living.
3. Develop an eschatological hope in future reward.

1 Peter 3:8-22 ESV

Suffering for Righteousness' Sake

⁸ Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. ⁹ Do 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. 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.”

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.

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, 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.

Table Talk



After viewing the short movie clip, choose a character depicted in the scene (Sal, Mookie, Buggin Out, or Da Mayor). Discuss the questions below assuming the character you have chosen. The table leader should also have a volunteer prepared to present the answers discussed.

1. Discuss how you see 1 Peter 3:8-12 through the lens of your character. What might you have done differently in the given situation?
2. Buggin Out said to Mookie, “Stay Black.” How does race trauma factor into Peter’s exhortation in verses 13-17.
3. Da Mayor’s advice sounds simple: “Always do the right thing.” Why is it so hard to know what the right thing is in the heat of the moment?
4. What is your “hot block” right now? Where does the pressure build up in your life: work, family, traffic, social media, church?
5. How can Christ's example and ultimate victory encourage you to remain faithful?

Summary

Suffering for Righteousness' Sake

When someone wrongs you, the right thing is neither revenge nor retreat. The right thing is to respond like Jesus: refuse to repay evil, speak your hope with courage, and trust God with the outcome.

The Reality of Suffering (vv. 8–14)

1. Doing what is _____ does not exempt believers from experiencing _____.
2. Suffering for righteousness' sake does not mean that God has _____ us.
3. Even when doing what is right comes at a personal _____, we are called to remain _____ to God.

The Response to Suffering (vv. 14–22)

4. When faced with opposition, believers should resist _____ and honor _____ as Lord.
5. When explaining our Christian hope to others, we should respond with _____ and _____.
6. Rather than compromising our convictions to avoid suffering, we must maintain a clear _____ and remain _____ to God.
7. Christ's suffering, _____, and exaltation remind us that suffering does not have the final _____.
8. Our ultimate hope rests not in favorable circumstances but in Christ's _____.

Looking Ahead

Identify one situation in your life where doing what is right may require you to make a difficult decision or endure an unfavorable outcome.

As you face that situation, commit to three intentional actions:

1. Recognize the reality: Accept that doing what is right may come at a personal cost, but do not allow the possibility of suffering to discourage your obedience to God.
2. Choose your response: Respond to opposition with courage, gentleness, and respect. Refuse to compromise your Christian convictions simply to avoid discomfort or gain the approval of others.
3. Remember the reward: Keep your focus on Christ, whose suffering, resurrection, and ultimate victory assure us that present difficulties do not have the final word.

Bible Memory Verse

1 Peter 2:9 (ESV)

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of the darkness into his marvelous light.

Notes:





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If tonight was your first MDWK with us, thank you for being here. We don't take lightly that you chose to spend your Wednesday with us. We pray you felt welcomed, encouraged, and strengthened. We'd love to see you again soon, you're always welcome at The Base!