

But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

1 Peter 2:20-23 (NIV)

Patiently Endure

That is what I want to do? **What do you want to do?** I want to follow your example. I want to patiently endure suffering and mistreatment without retaliating. **That is very good. What will happen to you if you follow my example?** For one, I will stand out in the world. **Why is that?** Most everyone living in the world does not patiently endure suffering and mistreatment without retaliation. This is an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth world. Payback is far more common than patiently enduring. **Yes, it is. Why are you willing to patiently endure suffering and mistreatment.** I want to live a life that is good and right and pleasing to you. I want to do what you did. I want to become like you in all that I think, say and do. **Can you say more about what will happen to you as you patiently endure suffering and mistreatment?** Well, I will certainly draw nearer to you. **Why is that?** I won't have the ability to patiently endure suffering and mistreatment without your help. Without, your help I am more likely to retaliate than patiently endure. So, I will draw nearer to you as I ask for your power and strength. **What else?** I will shine brightly for you as a bold witness in the world as I patiently endure suffering in the world. As I have said, that counter culture like response will stand out and be noticed. In doing so, I will be pointing others to you. Others will see and recognize that your life is being lived out, in and through me. Your kindness, mercy and love will be flowing in and through my life. Not only will this behavior stand out and be noticed, it will also be highly attractive. Others will see the life I have in you. They will want to come to know and love you through the bold witness of me living the life you have called me to live. **Yes, they will.** So, as I patiently endure suffering and mistreatment, my life will bear fruit for your kingdom and bring glory to your name. So, that is what I will do with all the power and strength that you give me. **That will be very good.**

Lord, there have been plenty of times when I have wanted to retaliate against those who have mistreated me. Doing so would ruin any opportunity I might have to be a bold witness for you in the world. Help me to follow your example by enduring mistreatment. Amen

Becoming Like Christ *He Did Not Retaliate*

But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

NIV

1 Peter 2:20-23

Becoming Like Christ *He Did Not Retaliate*

Of course, you get no credit for being patient if you are beaten for doing wrong. But if you suffer for doing good and endure it patiently, God is pleased with you. For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps. He never sinned, nor ever deceived anyone. He did not retaliate when he was insulted, nor threaten revenge when he suffered. He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly.

NLT

1 Peter 2:20-23

Becoming Like Christ *He Did Not Return Abuse*

If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly.

NRSV

1 Peter 2:20-23

Becoming Like Christ *He Did Not Revile...In Return*

[After all] what kind of glory [is there in it] if, when you do wrong and are punished for it, you take it patiently? But if you bear patiently with suffering [which results] when you do right *and* that is undeserved, it is acceptable *and* pleasing to God. For even to this were you called [it is inseparable from your vocation]. For Christ also suffered for you, leaving you [His personal] example, so that you should follow in His footsteps. He was guilty of no sin, neither was deceit (guile) ever found on His lips. When He was reviled *and* insulted, He did not revile *or* offer insult in return; [when] He was abused *and* suffered, He made no threats [of vengeance]; but he trusted [Himself and everything] to Him Who judges fairly.

AMP

1 Peter 2:20-23

Becoming Like Christ *He Did Not Revile In Return*

For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer *for it* you patiently endure it, this *finds* favor with God. For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH; and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting *Himself* to Him who judges righteously;

NASB

1 Peter 2:20-23

Becoming Like Christ *He Did Not Revile In Return*

For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.

ESV

1 Peter 2:20-23

Becoming Like Christ *He Did Revile In Return*

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. For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: "*Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth*"; 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;

NKJV

1 Peter 2:20-23

Becoming Like Christ *He Said Nothing Back*

There's no particular virtue in accepting punishment that you well deserve. But if you're treated badly for good behavior and continue in spite of it to be a good servant, that is what counts with God. This is the kind of life you've been invited into, the kind of life Christ lived. He suffered everything that came his way so you would know that it could be done, and also know how to do it, step-by-step. He never did one thing wrong, Not once said anything amiss. They called him every name in the book and he said nothing back. He suffered in silence, content to let God set things right.

MSG

1 Peter 2:20-23

Becoming Like Christ *He Did Not Threaten To Get Even*

Of course, you get no credit for being patient if you are beaten for doing wrong; but if you do right and suffer for it, and are patient beneath the blows, God is well pleased. This suffering is all part of the work God has given you. Christ, who suffered for you, is your example. Follow in his steps: He never sinned, never told a lie, never answered back when insulted; when he suffered he did not threaten to get even; he left his case in the hands of God who always judges fairly. 1 Peter 2:20-23 (TLB)

TLB

1 Peter 2:20-23

Becoming Like Christ *He Did Not Insult Them In Return*

If you are beaten for doing wrong, there is no reason to praise you for being patient in your punishment. But if you suffer for doing good, and you are patient, then God is pleased. This is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and gave you an example to follow. So you should do as he did. "He had never sinned, and he had never lied." People insulted Christ, but he did not insult them in return. Christ suffered, but he did not threaten. He let God, the One who judges rightly, take care of him. 1 Peter 2:20-23 (NCV)

NCV

1 Peter 2:20-23

He Did Not Retaliate

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Becoming Like Christ – Matthew 4:18-20

In Context: *Read Matthew 4*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. 1 Peter 2:20-23 (NIV)

Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

But how | is it | to your credit | if you | receive a beating | for doing wrong | and | endure it? | But if | you suffer | for doing good | and | you endure it, | this is commendable | before God. | To this | you were called, | because Christ | suffered for you, | leaving you | an example, | that | you should follow | in his steps. | "He committed | no sin, | and | no deceit | was found | in his | mouth." | When | they hurled | their insults | at him, | he | did not retaliate; | when | he suffered, | he made | no threats. | Instead, | he entrusted himself | to him | who judges | justly. 1 Peter 2:20-23 (NIV)

Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, there have been plenty of times when I have wanted to retaliate against those who have mistreated me. Doing so would ruin any opportunity I might have to be a bold witness for you in the world. Help me to follow your example by enduring mistreatment. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

Why can you be sure that you will go through suffering in this life?

Why can you expect to be mistreated simply because you are a follower of Jesus Christ?

When have you been tempted to retaliate against someone who has mistreated you?

How has Jesus Christ provided you an example of enduring suffering and mistreatment without retaliating?

Why are you called to suffer and endure mistreatment without retaliation?

How has enduring mistreatment without retaliation enabled you to be a witness for Christ in the world?

How has your life born fruit for the kingdom of God because you endured mistreatment without retaliation?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Endure suffering and mistreatment without retaliation so you can be a bold witness for Christ in the world.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that the Lord will help you to endure mistreatment so you can be a bold witness for Him in the world.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how you have followed Christ example of how to endure mistreatment.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you not retaliate when others mistreat you.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will not retaliate when others mistreat me.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how should I respond to others who mistreat me?
