**Sunday, July 4**

**Going deeper in 1 Peter 2:18-25**

**INTRODUCTION**

Peter has discussed how following Jesus changes our relationship with governing authorities. He has encouraged followers of Jesus to work for good in any given society, culture, and government. This is done for the Lord’s sake. The reputation of the Lord Jesus and His Kingdom is of eternal importance. He now moves into relationships between servants and masters.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.*

18 Servants, subject yourselves to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and kind, but also to those who are messed up. 19 It is an act of grace to follow your God-given conscience even when it is unfair and hard. 20 Think about it, what credit is it to you if you suffer for doing the wrong things and you patiently endure it? But if you suffer for doing the right thing and patiently endure, that is commendable before God. 21 This is part of the life you were called into. Jesus suffered for you, setting an example for you. 22 He did nothing wrong in word or deed. 23 They called him every name in the book, but He refused to return their insults. He suffered in silence and did not lash out, but let God set things right. 24 He showed us the way by carrying our sins to the cross so we might be free to live a righteous life. By His wounds you were healed. 25 You were lost sheep who had no idea where you were going. Now you have changed course because of the work of the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. Why do you think Peter asks those who are servants to respect and subject themselves to their masters/owners? How would this affect their relationship?

2. Have there been times in your life when you paid a price for doing the right thing? Are there areas of your life right now that the Lord wants you to do the right thing even though you might not get credit in the eyes of others?

3. What stands out to you about Jesus’ response to suffering and hardship? How will his example help you when you are mistreated?

4 Who is in authority over you (work or other environments)? How is the relationship? Are there ways you can improve it?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Pray for those who you answer to (bosses, supervisors, teachers, parents…)?

\*Thank the Lord for His example of suffering service. Ask Him to help you follow His example.

\*If you have people who work for you pray that the Lord will help you to be a great boss.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

The Lord Jesus, the Son of God, showed us that sacrifice and service are part of following Him. Will you follow His example this week?