

# SOJOURNERS AND EXILES

A JOURNEY THROUGH FIRST PETER

## SUBMISSION IN THE WORKPLACE

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### 1 Peter 2:18-25

<sup>18</sup> Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. <sup>19</sup> For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup> For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

### SUMMARY

People are going to people... We are around people all the time, whether we are at home, school, or our workplace. We often consider our places of work as mundane—a place we have to go to earn a paycheck. When it comes to the people in these spaces, we can be passive in how we engage our coworkers or bosses. Passivity can breed contempt in us, and we can begin to speak and act toward those around us as if they are “the problem.” What if we viewed our workplace as an opportunity to show the work of Christ in our lives? What if, instead of responding passively to our work and our bosses, we sought to live in a way that glorifies Christ and generates gospel conversations among the people around us? We have been called into this good gospel work, so let’s be people who don’t simply view work as work, but rather see our workplaces as opportunities to show Christ.

### **1 Corinthians 7:17-24**

<sup>17</sup> Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches. <sup>18</sup> Was anyone at the time of his call already circumcised? Let him not seek to remove the marks of circumcision. Was anyone at the time of his call uncircumcised? Let him not seek circumcision. <sup>19</sup> For neither circumcision counts for anything nor uncircumcision, but keeping the commandments of God. <sup>20</sup> Each one should remain in the condition in which he was called. <sup>21</sup> Were you a bondservant when called? Do not be concerned about it. (But if you can gain your freedom, avail yourself of the opportunity.) <sup>22</sup> For he who was called in the Lord as a bondservant is a freedman of the Lord. Likewise he who was free when called is a bondservant of Christ. <sup>23</sup> You were bought with a price; do not become bondservants of men. <sup>24</sup> So, brothers, in whatever condition each was called, there let him remain with God.

**“New Testament writers were not social revolutionaries. They did not believe that overhauling social structures would transform culture... If enough individuals are transformed, of course, society as a whole benefits and the Christian faith begins to function as a leavening influence...”**

### **Esau McCaulley, Reading While Black: African American Biblical Interpretation As An Exercise In Hope, pg. 142**

“I want to contend that the Old Testament and later the New Testament create an imaginative world in which slavery becomes more and more untenable. Stated differently, God created a people who could theologically deconstruct slavery.”

### **Luke 6:32-36**

<sup>32</sup> If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup> And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup> And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. <sup>35</sup> But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. <sup>36</sup> Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

### **Romans 8:29**

<sup>29</sup> For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

**WHEN WE SEE OUR WORK AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO IMITATE CHRIST WE WILL WILLINGLY SUBMIT OURSELVES TO THOSE OVER US SO THAT CHRIST IS MAGNIFIED.**

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How often do you pray for those that you work with? Bosses, co-workers, employees, etc.
2. How have you reacted in the past when someone at your workplace has mistreated you?  
Did your reaction bring honor to the Lord?
3. How does the idea of gaining God's favor help your heart deal with being mistreated at the workplace?
4. Who are three "problem" people at your workplace this week that you can offer gospel hope/encouragement to?
5. How can you remind yourself of the hope/example we as believers have in Christ this week while being in your workplace?
6. What grabbed your attention the most from the passage or sermon this week?

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