**I Peter 2:18-25**

Called to Suffer

Servants

* Be subject to you masters with all fear
  + To the good and gentle
  + To the forward
* Slaves were considered property under Roman law and had no legal personhood. Unlike Roman citizens, they could be subjected to corporal punishment, sexual exploitation (prostitutes were often slaves), torture, and summary execution. The testimony of a slave could not be accepted in a court of law unless the slave was tortured—a practice based on the belief that slaves in a position to be privy to their masters' affairs would be too virtuously loyal to reveal damaging evidence unless coerced. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slavery\_in\_ancient\_Rome)
* No-one is sure how many slaves existed in the Roman Empire. Even after Rome has passed it days of greatness, it is thought that 25% of all people in Rome were slaves. A rich man might own as many as 500 slaves and an emperor usually had more than 20,000 at his disposal. (http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/roman\_slaves.htm)

Why?

* It is thankworthy if a man endures grief, suffering wrongfully for conscience toward God
  + charis (khar’-ece)
  + AV-grace 130, favour 6, thanks 4, thank 4, thank + 2192 3, pleasure 2, misc 7; 156
    - 1) grace
      * 1a) that which affords joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness, charm, loveliness: grace of speech
    - 2) good will, loving-kindness, favour
      * 2a) of the merciful kindness by which God, exerting his holy influence upon souls, turns them to Christ, keeps, strengthens, increases them in Christian faith, knowledge, affection, and kindles them to the exercise of the Christian virtues
    - 3) what is due to grace
      * 3a) the spiritual condition of one governed by the power of divine grace
      * 3b) the token or proof of grace, benefit
        + 3b1) a gift of grace
        + 3b2) benefit, bounty
    - 4) thanks, (for benefits, services, favours), recompense, reward
* We Were Called to Suffer

Christ’s Example

* Follow His Steps
  + He Was Innocent (Did No Sin)
    - No Hurtful Words (Guile)
      * dolos (dol’-os)
      * AV-guile 7, subtilty 2, deceit 2, craft 1; 12

1) craft, deceit, guile

* + - * + Blessed [is] the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit [there is] no guile. (Psalms 32:2)
        + Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile! (John 1:47)
    - No Harmful Reaction (Reviled Not)
      * loidoreo (loy-dor-eh’-o)
      * AV-revile 4; 4

1) to reproach, rail at, revile, heap abuse upon

* + - No Future Threat (Threatened Not)
  + Committed Himself to Him that Judgeth Righteously
    - Emphasize verses 25 and 25