

I Peter – When Things are Out of Control

Thomas Thompson

I Peter 3:8-17

January 31st, 2021

Reflection & Discussion Questions

The recipients of Peter's letter had embraced a new story

They were confused about why some things seemed worse in this new story.

*When have you felt powerless or confused in your new story?

The platter of concern is filled with all of your concern, and the plate of control are the things you have influence over

The more you focus on the plate instead of platter, you gain effectiveness and prevent being overwhelmed.

Read and discuss I Peter 3:8-13(ESV)

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?

*What do these verses say about God? About people?

*What does it say about seeing good days?

We have to reframe 'good days'

Good days include bad times.

Read and discuss I Peter 3:14-17(ESV)

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.

*What do these verses say about God? About people?

*What does this passage say about reframing 'good days'?

*How have you seen good days that include bad times in your life?

Focusing on the platter hinders our story, focusing on the plate empowers our story

God has put some things on our plate that we can control:

Blessing

Keeping Christ as center

Offering hope

*How do you see that God has empowered us in these three places?

*How are you or can you choose to bless right now?

*How are you or can you choose to keep Christ as center right now?

*How are you or can you choose to offer hope right now?

*As we move into 2021, are you focused on the platter or on your plate? What might he be telling you about your focus?

Join us as we read through the book of I Peter this winter as a church

January 31st - 6th: I Peter 2:1-25

Visual reflection (Visio Divina)* [Untitled](#) by Soren Petculescu

Song for reflection [Jesus at the Center](#) by Israel Houghton

*Visio divina – a thoughtful and slow way of contemplating a visual prompt like a piece of art, photograph or image and inviting God to speak to you through it. First, focus on the detail that your eyes are drawn to right away – keep focus there and pay attention to what thoughts and emotions you are having. Then, look at the entire image and consider it as a whole, being aware of thoughts, questions and emotions it provokes. End in silence and prayer, considering your experience and anything you feel called to respond to.