

SERVANTS, BE SUBJECT TO YOUR MASTERS WITH ALL RESPECT, NOT ONLY TO THE GOOD AND GENTLE BUT ALSO TO THE UNJUST. FOR THIS IS A GRACIOUS THING, WHEN, MINDFUL OF GOD, ONE ENDURES SORROWS WHILE SUFFERING UNJUSTLY. 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,

1 PETER 2:18-25

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

1 PETER 2:18-25

CONTINUED ENTRUSTING HIMSELF TO HIM WHO JUDGES JUSTLY. 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. FOR YOU WERE STRAYING LIKE SHEEP, BUT HAVE NOW RETURNED TO THE SHEPHERD AND OVERSEER OF YOUR SOULS.

1 PETER 2:18-25

WHOEVER STEALS A MAN AND SELLS HIM, AND
ANYONE FOUND IN POSSESSION OF HIM, **SHALL**
BE PUT TO DEATH.

EXODUS 21:16

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- SLAVERY WAS USUALLY FINANCIALLY MOTIVATED.

I HAVE BEEN ARRESTED FIVE TIMES AND PUT IN ALABAMA JAILS. MY HOME HAS BEEN BOMBED TWICE. A DAY SELDOM PASSES THAT MY FAMILY AND I ARE NOT THE RECIPIENTS OF THREATS OF DEATH. I HAVE BEEN THE VICTIM OF A NEAR FATAL STABBING. MY PERSONAL TRIALS HAVE ALSO TAUGHT ME THE VALUE OF UNMERITED SUFFERING. AS MY SUFFERINGS MOUNTED I SOON

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

REALIZED THAT THERE WERE TWO WAYS THAT I
COULD RESPOND TO MY SITUATION: EITHER TO
REACT WITH BITTERNESS OR SEEK TO TRANSFORM
THE SUFFERING INTO A CREATIVE FORCE. I
DECIDED TO FOLLOW THE LATTER COURSE.
RECOGNIZING THE NECESSITY FOR SUFFERING I
HAVE TRIED TO MAKE OF IT A VIRTUE. IF ONLY TO
SAVE MYSELF FROM BITTERNESS, I HAVE

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

ATTEMPTED TO SEE MY PERSONAL ORDEALS AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO TRANSFORM MYSELF AND HEAL THE PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE TRAGIC SITUATION WHICH NOW OBTAINS. I HAVE LIVED THESE LAST FEW YEARS WITH THE CONVICTION THAT UNEARNED SUFFERING IS REDEMPTIVE.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

FROM TIME TO TIME IN THE YEARS TO COME, I
HOPE YOU WILL BE TREATED UNFAIRLY, SO THAT
YOU WILL COME TO KNOW THE VALUE OF JUSTICE.
I HOPE THAT YOU WILL SUFFER BETRAYAL
BECAUSE THAT WILL TEACH YOU THE IMPORTANCE
OF LOYALTY. SORRY TO SAY, BUT I HOPE YOU WILL
BE LONELY FROM TIME TO TIME SO THAT YOU
DON'T TAKE FRIENDS FOR GRANTED. I WISH YOU

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BAD LUCK, AGAIN, FROM TIME TO TIME SO THAT YOU WILL BE CONSCIOUS OF THE ROLE OF CHANCE IN LIFE AND UNDERSTAND THAT YOUR SUCCESS IS NOT COMPLETELY DESERVED AND THAT THE FAILURE OF OTHERS IS NOT COMPLETELY DESERVED EITHER. AND WHEN YOU LOSE, AS YOU WILL FROM TIME TO TIME, I HOPE EVERY NOW AND THEN, YOUR OPPONENT WILL

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GLOAT OVER YOUR FAILURE. IT IS A WAY FOR YOU TO UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF SPORTSMANSHIP. I HOPE YOU'LL BE IGNORED SO YOU KNOW THE IMPORTANCE OF LISTENING TO OTHERS, AND I HOPE YOU WILL HAVE JUST ENOUGH PAIN TO LEARN COMPASSION. WHETHER I WISH THESE THINGS OR NOT, THEY'RE GOING TO HAPPEN. AND WHETHER YOU BENEFIT FROM

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THEM OR NOT WILL DEPEND UPON YOUR ABILITY
TO SEE THE MESSAGE IN YOUR MISFORTUNES.

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REFLECTION QUESTION:
WHERE MIGHT GOD BE CALLING YOU
TO “REDEMPTIVE SUFFERING”?