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## LESSON 4

### 1 Peter 2:11-25

1. What truth about Jesus did you need to hear from last week's study of **1 Peter 2:4-10**?  
What fresh understanding of your role in God's kingdom motivated you to take action?
2. Ask God for discernment as you read through **1 Peter 2:11-25**, written to readers living in the Roman Empire under the rule of the emperor Nero, who was known for his cruelty and persecution of Christians. What questions or concerns bubble up to the surface for you as Peter admonishes his readers to live godly lives and to submit to human authority for the Lord's sake?
3. a) How does Peter refer to his audience in **VII-12** and what challenges does he anticipate they will face in a pagan world?  
  
b) *Challenge:* Read **Hebrews 11:13-16**, in which the author calls the ancients who lived by faith "foreigners and strangers." How do their lives of faith reflect where their hope lies, and what message would you like to see reflected in your own life?

4. a) According to **1 Peter 2:13-15**, describe the believer's attitude toward human authority and the mission of such authority. What is the outcome of a believer living differently?
- b) Submission to authority is still thorny to navigate in our complex world. What more do you learn about submission from the following verses:
- **Acts 5:27-29**
  
  - **Romans 13:1-5**
  
  - **1 Timothy 2:1-2**
5. From **1 Peter 2:16-17**, discuss how a follower of Jesus should act and how you think it is possible to live free and yet to live as God's slaves.
6. **V18-21** addresses the issue of the master-slave relationship, a horrible reality of Peter's day. He does so without condoning it.
- a) What does Peter say to those who are slaves and how does he relate the suffering of slavery to the suffering of Jesus?
- b) Paul also spoke directly to those living under the yoke of slavery in **Ephesians 6:5-8**. What is the motivation for obedience that Paul gives the Christian who is a servant to another?

7. From **1 Peter 2:22-25**, what does Peter emphasize about Jesus? How did Jesus' submission work to your benefit and change your behavior or the direction of your life?

## 8. **LIVING AS STRANGERS: SET FREE**

Peter challenges his readers to live free while living subject to and in submission to human authority. "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free." (**Galatians 5:1**). Through Jesus, the law of the Spirit who gives life has set us free from the law of sin and death.

- a) How do the following verses add to your understanding of what it means to live set free in Christ?

- **John 8:31-36**

- **Romans 6:15-18**

- **James 1:25**

- b) Soberly meditate on where you continue to make choices to serve your sin and begin surrendering those areas to the Lordship of Jesus, the Shepherd and Overseer of your soul. Consider sharing this sin struggle with someone you trust and ask them to pray that you would be set free.

**NAME**

**PRAYER REQUEST**