

Living Hope

Week 6 – Fear God, Honor Authority

Transition: In last week's text, Peter contrasted the position of those who receive Christ with the position of those who disbelieve. He showed that a person's identity in Christ should affect the way they live and then illustrated how a believer's conduct can affect those who don't follow Christ.

Context: In this week's text, Peter continues describing how a disciple's identity should affect the way they live, specifically concerning their response to the various authorities in his or her life.

Opening Questions:

- Have you ever had a sibling that tried to be your authority? What was your response to their attempt and why did you respond the way you did?
- What causes you to be suspicious of authority? Why do you feel humans have a natural tendency to be suspicious of authority?

Scripture/Storying: 1 Peter 2:13-25

Discipleship Questions:

- What authorities have you been under? Why were various authorities easy or difficult for you submit to? How is God calling you to respond to the authorities you are under now?
- What tasks does God institute governing authorities for (see Romans 13:1-7)? Why do you feel governing authorities are necessary? How would your life be different without governing authorities?
- Read 1 Timothy 2:1-2. Why do you feel you should pray for governing authorities, even if you disagree with them? What makes this difficult for you? How will praying for governing authorities benefit you? How will you implement this discipline of praying for governing authorities?
- What stories from the Bible show occasions where civil authorities were disobeyed? Is there an acceptable time to disobey governing authorities today? If so, when do you feel it would be acceptable and how should it be handled?
- What are some modern-day examples of people suffering from unjust authorities? Why do you feel these examples demonstrate unjust suffering? How can you minister to someone who has suffered unjustly?
- In what ways was Christ unjustly treated by authority? What was his response? Why is the response Christ calls you to, when faced with unjust treatment, difficult for you personally? How does Christ's response to suffering strengthen you to follow his lead when you feel that you have faced unjust suffering from an authority?
- What is the Holy Spirit teaching you through this story? How does it impact the way you think and live?

Prayer time: The Timothy Initiative

Pray for the 25,000 villages where disciples are going to prayer walk and survey in Kenya in the next 90 days. - **Pray** for the launch of ACHIVE, where 90% of 19,000 villages don't have a church. - **Pray** for one of our Paul's and Timothy's in South Asia. He was attacked by 3 men with a sword, they attempted to cut his head but the sword was blocked by one of our Timothy's. They were followed and attacked while returning home after visiting a red village with the gospel. The Timothy's palms were nearly cut off and it may take months to get well. While the 22-year-old Timothy was taken to the hospital bleeding, he was shouting in pain "Lord save the people in the 12 red villages in our block". Please continue to pray for his emotional and physical recovery...and for those 12 red villages!