



If you have ever needed corrective lenses, you know how much of a gift clarity is. Seeing things clearly can make the difference in understanding or not understanding. In this part of 1 Peter, we begin to get a very clear picture of what it means to be an exile, regardless of your circumstances in life.

Read: 1 Peter 3:8-22; Matthew 5:38-48

The first thing Peter tells us to do in v8 is to be like-minded, or some translations say 'be of one mind.' Whose mind are we all to be one with?

Why do you think this is important? What will being of one mind enable us to do?

Make a list of the instructions in these two passages that seem completely backwards to what society, not to mention our own natural instincts, would have us do.

In light of these, how should we respond to personal mistreatment?

What are the benefits of returning good in response to evil?

In v.15, Peter tells us to always be ready to give an answer for when people ask about the hope that we have. Have you ever met someone who lived such a hope-filled life, that other people asked them about it? What were they like?

Peter tells us Jesus was killed in the body, but brought to life in the Spirit. What does this tell you about the battle between good and evil?

What difference should it make in your life, and in how you function in the world, that Christ has already won the battle?

//Context Cues: Peter tells us that in baptism, we are saved by the resurrection of Christ, who now sits at God's right hand, and has full authority over all angels, authorities and powers.

How does this knowledge of Jesus' position affect your trust, your willingness to submit to Him, even when his way is in direct contrast to the norm, or to our human nature?

Make it Personal:

Is there someone God is bringing to mind whose mistreatment you need to repay with blessing?

Are you living a life so filled with hope that other people ask about it? Why or why not?

Prayer:

Father, thank you for the example of Jesus, who shows us how to live a holy life, a committed life, and a life that goes against the grain. Lord, give us the strength to follow in His footsteps, to bless those who do evil against us, and to love like He loved. Thank you that through Jesus we are saved, and that we can confidently and humbly walk with Him, knowing He has already won the battle. Amen.