

TITLE AND NUMBER: 132. Misunderstood?



REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S): 1 Peter 3:13-18a

Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. 'Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.' But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.

LOOKING FURTHER: 1 Peter 3:18b-22

What does this Bible passage tell us?

When we show someone kindness or generosity, it can be treated with suspicion or an assumption that there must be a catch – 'beware of someone bearing unexpected gifts!' Good intentions can be misunderstood. The same can occur if we seek to do what is right before God; we might be ridiculed, criticised or resented.

Peter tells us, 'You are blessed. Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.' Just know that you are doing God's will and demonstrating that Jesus is Lord in your heart (v14-15). You may be asked the question, 'Why have you done that?' This is a golden opportunity to share your story of hope and the faith that you have in Jesus.

Jesus was misunderstood, ridiculed, and crucified. But, He rose again so that we can be saved, healed, forgiven and set free from the things that separate us from God. Even more good news is that when we come to Him and talk to Him about anything and everything, He never misunderstands us.

Maybe you are struggling with issues at the moment? You can be assured that God knows all that is going on. Trust Him! Do not despair, but know that God is with you and nothing can take that from you - however you may be feeling. He knows your heart and is delighted when you want to serve Him. What a future you can have – now and for eternity.

Reflections:

- Remember, most of the Old Testament prophets were misunderstood but they had a huge part to play in God's plan.
- God can use you in any circumstance that He chooses. Have there been times when you have felt like you were part of His plan?
- Who can you be a blessing to this week?

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.

MISUNDERSTOOD



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

