

#11 How to react without being reactionary

Introduction:

As practicing Christians in this world, we are promised one key thing - we will suffer for the name of Jesus - we'll be misunderstood, misjudged mistreated and more. It's a given - just par for the course.

But what is not par for the course is how we react when unjustly treated. Our default - in fact everyone's default - is to get back at people, retaliate and get revenge. Whether it's aggressive retaliation such as things we say or do to get back at those who hurt us, or passive aggressive retaliation from going quiet to playing the victim. There is a better way - God's way, and it's not natural ... **it's supernatural.**

Play and listen to... "Desert Song" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4WYK6TxWX7s&list=PLWvahZRxLnLPV5ECCHvmLuus6Tjmv4Oir&index=29>

Pray... That we would see our Heavenly Father and His blessing in the midst of being misunderstood and mistreated.

Read: James 5:7-12

Play video: <https://youtu.be/4KtqS20Wi-0>

Share for 1 min each what your "take away" thought is from this video

Thoughts to share:

- Have you ever had to walk away when someone wronged you? If so, how did walking away require patience?
- James tells us to wait for the coming of the Lord (v7). Why is that important ?
- Are you still holding a grudge against someone who has wronged you? If so, how can you release your bitterness against that person so it doesn't turn into hatred?
- Which way do you lean when misunderstood or misjudged - aggressively with words or deeds, passive aggressive, or with patience?
- What would it take for you to activate the 50:20 principle? (See Genesis 50:20)

Consider:

People are watching everything we do and say, and how we react to hardship and persecution so, being patient when unfairly treated is a great way to display to others - especially the perpetrators - what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

Pray. This is a great opportunity to pray for people who are suffering in some way - especially those who suffer for their faith. Remember people in places like China, North Korea, Afghanistan, Middle East etc - and the missionaries that serve in those places. Pray for boldness and for the name of Jesus to be glorified no matter what.