

“Shepherd The Flock”
1 Peter 5:1-4
6/5/22
Message 10

Introduction

- Title of the Message is: “Shepherd The Flock”

- **Review**

- **Context – Persecution**

- **Theme of the Book - Following Christ in a Hostile World**

- Persecution Beginning to hit the Church

- Nero – A mad man to say the least

- **SO - Peter Wanted to Encourage Them & US**

- **1 Peter 1:1-12 - We Have Living Hope**

- **1 Peter 1:13-25 - An Appeal To Holiness**

- **1 Peter 2:1-12 – Christian Conduct**

- **1 Peter 2:13-17 - Submitting to Government - BEST CITIZENS**

- **1 Peter 2:18-25 – Best Employees**

- **1 Peter 3:1-7 - Silent Sermons – Selfless Husbands**

- **1 Peter 3:8-22 – Be Of One Mind**

- **1 Peter 4:1-11 – The Mind Of Christ**

- Verse 1

- His Mind in Suffering

- His Mind in the Victory He purchased at Calvary
- Look at v. 7

1 Peter 4:7 (NKJV)

7 But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.

- His Mind in how we should use our time
 - End of ALL things are at HAND
 - Be Watchful in PRAYER
 - Fervent LOVE for one another
 - Be Hospitable –
 - Don't Grumble
 - Use The Gifts you have been given to BLESS the CHURCH
- **1 Peter 4:12-19 - Ye Are Partakers Of Christ's Sufferings**
 - Don't Be Amazed At The Fiery Trials v. 12 – Strange
 - The Attitudes We Should Have vs. 13-16 - Rejoice
 - The Acknowledgment Of God's Judgment vs. 17-18 – House of God
 - Acceptance Of God's Will v. 19

1 Peter 4:19 (NKJV)

19 Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.

- To Make us More Like Jesus
 - Tozer Quote - **Show Pic**

- *“When I understand that everything happening to me is to make me more Christlike, it resolves a great deal of anxiety.”*

- **Now This Morning**

- **Peter Exhorts the “Elders” Pastor to Shepherd the Flock, In Times of Suffering...**

- In Times of Trials v. 12
- Or when Judgment Begins in the House of The Lord v. 17
- The CHURCH needs STRONG PASTORS
- It needs Pastors that desire to serve God above ALL
- That won't RUN or FOLD under pressure!!!
- *Wiersbe; “Times of persecution demand that God’s people have adequate spiritual leadership. If judgment is to begin at God’s house (1 Peter 4:17), then that house had better be in order, or it will fall apart! This explains why Peter wrote this special message to the leaders of the church, to encourage them to do their work faithfully. Leaders who run away in times of difficulty are only proving that they are hirelings and not true shepherds (John 10:12–14). Peter was concerned that the leadership in the local churches be at its best. When the fiery trial would come, the believers in the assemblies would look to their elders for encouragement and direction.”*

- **So This Morning We will look at 6 Qualities that make for a Good Elder / Pastor?**

- The Exhortation Peter Gives vs. 1-2
- The Enthusiasm For Ministry v. 2
- The Eagerness We Need In Serving v. 2
- The Exercise Of Your Leadership v. 3
- The Example We Need to Be v. 3
- The Expectation Of Reward v. 4

- **Quick NOTE ON Application...**

- You May be thinking if this message is for Elders / Pastors why do I need to listen?!
 - It principles apply to everyone, not just pastors or elders
 - If you think about it, what are we called in the Bible...sheep
 - And sheep are supposed to reproduce, aren't they?
 - So in a very real sense, every Christian takes on the role of a shepherd from time to time
 - Example –
 - YOUR FAMILY

The Exhortation Peter Gives vs. 1-2

- **First: The Reminder Of How Peter Viewed Himself v. 1**

- **1st The Term Elder v. 1a**

1 Peter 5:1 (NKJV)

1 The elders who are among you I exhort, *I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed:*

- **Peter will give a word of exhortation to the elders**
 - Who are among the Christians reading this letter!
 - These elders had “special responsibilities” that Peter addresses
- **Meaning Of Elders**
 - The idea of the elder came into Church life from Jewish culture (Exodus 3:16, 12:21, and 19:7).

- The word “elder” simply speaks of the maturity and wisdom that an older person should have
- Making them qualified for leadership.
- It is more about wisdom and maturity than a specific age.
- In the NT
 - We see Elders appointed after Paul planted the churches (Acts 14:23)
 - Local leaders that would oversee the flock
 - This would lead to the development of the office of Pastor
 - Who was essentially a teaching elder (1 Timothy 5:17)
 - Who appointed to lead other leaders (1 Timothy 3:1-13, 2 Timothy 2:2, Titus 1:5-9)
 - The word elder and the word pastor are virtually synonymous in the NT.
 - We would see it today as Pastor of the Church

○ **2nd Peter Is A Fellow Elder v. 1b**

1 Peter 5:1 (NKJV)

1 The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed:

- Peter was a FELLOW ELDER and a witness...

- NOTE –

- Peter referred to himself as an Elder
- NOT the POPE
- Peter was qualified to speak because he is a fellow elder.
- **Peter was a witness of the sufferings of Christ,**
 - Peter was qualified to speak because he was a witness of Jesus' sufferings when he saw Jesus' torture and perhaps the crucifixion.
- **Peter also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed:**
 - Soon Christ will appear, and we shall appear with Him in glory

Colossians 3:4 (NKJV)

4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

- He was also a partaker of Jesus' glory, probably referring to when he saw the transfiguration of Jesus.

• Second: The Recognition Of How We Should View Believers v. 2

- **1st Shepherd v.2a**

1 Peter 5:2 (NKJV)

2 Shepherd *the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly;*

- **God's Relationship with US**
 - One of the Ways God Sees His relationship with us, is as a SHEPHERD and SHEEP
 - He is the Shepherd
 - We are the Sheep

- **We see this idea all through the Word**

- He Is the Good Shepherd – He is GOOD!!!

Psalm 23 (NKJV)

A Psalm of David.

- 1** *The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.*
2 *He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.*
3 *He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.*
4 *Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.*
5 *You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.*
6 *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.*

- We Are The SHEEP

- Sheep BY Nature are DUMB!!!

- We need to recognize this

- Illustration –

- Mark Sheep that killed itself

- So it is SO IMPORTANT that we seek and Follow the GREAT SHEPHERD

- **Jesus Christ is the Good Shepherd**

- Prophesied in the Old Testament (Micah 5:2-4)

Micah 5:2–4 (NKJV)

2 *“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting.”*

3 *Therefore He shall give them up, Until the time that she who is in labor has given birth; Then the remnant of His brethren Shall return to the children of Israel.*

4 *And He shall stand and feed His flock In the strength of the LORD, In the majesty of the name of the LORD His God; And they shall abide, For now He shall be great To the ends of the earth;*

- Revealed in the New Testament:

John 10:11 (NKJV)

11 *"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.*

▪ **Jesus Gives us Under - Shepherds**

- Pastor - Teacher –
 - The Greek word for pastor is the word for shepherd

Acts 20:28 (NKJV)

28 *Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.*

Ephesians 4:11 (NKJV)

11 *And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,*

1 Peter 5:2 (NKJV)

2 *Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly;*

- Jesus is the Chief Shepherd
- Pastors are under-shepherds
- Pastor are given responsibility over a local body

• **Third: The Responsibilities Of the Shepherds v. 2b**

1 Peter 5:2 (NKJV)

2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly;

○ **1st An Under – Shepherd FEED my Sheep**

- Peter's instruction from Jesus

John 21:17 (NKJV)

17 He said to him the third time, "*Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?*" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "*Do you love Me?*" And he said to Him, "*Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.*" Jesus said to him, "*Feed My sheep.*"

- Paul Tells us in Ephesians

Ephesians 4:11–16 (NKJV)

11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,
12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,
13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;
14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,
15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—
16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

- Must NOT become distracted from the priority of FEEDING

Acts 6:2–4 (NKJV)

2 Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables.
3 Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business;
4 but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

- Feeding Means the Whole Word of God

Acts 20:27 (NKJV)

27 For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.

- **2nd Serves – Follows Jesus' Example**

John 13:2–6 (NKJV)

2 And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him,

3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God,

4 rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself.

5 After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.

6 Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?"

- **3rd A Under - Shepherd's willing to suffer for those the shepherd ministers to**

John 10:15 (NKJV)

15 As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.

- Give his life for

- A shepherd is responsible to take care of his sheep
- The shepherd should be willing to give his life for the sheep because they're valuable and costly
- And here he exhorts elders to have a shepherd's heart

- Put up with Sheep that bit

- **Show Video**

- **4th A Under – Shepherd LEADS he is an OVERSEER of your Souls / and are responsible for your souls**

Hebrews 13:17 (NKJV)

17 Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

- An Under – Shepherd
 - Feeds
 - Prayers for the Flock
 - Leads them to the LORD – safe places – NOT to himself
- **4th An Under – Shepherd Warns the Flock**
 - **1st Warn About Sin – Preach Holiness**
 - All the Warnings in the NT are written to Christians filled with the HS
 - The Warning STAY away from Sin which will destroy your soul
 - Pursue Holiness
 - Sadly, some believe if you preach Holiness your preaching legalism

1 Peter 1:16 (NKJV)

16 because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.”

- **2nd Warn About False Teachers and Teaching**

Acts 20:28–32 (NKJV)

28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

29 For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.

30 *Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.*

31 *Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.*

32 *“So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.*

- As you know I have NO problem doing this!!
- Some may not even like me doing this - BUT the Bible tells we MUST

- **Show Pic Ravenhill**

- *Today there is an outcry against junk mail, But seems to be little outcry against junk preaching. Dear Dr. Tozer used to say; “I have to tell the truth, the truth is not very well received, even by saints!*

- Biggest Danger to the Church the last 150 years is Liberalism, progressivism, Woke Started in mid 1800's in Germany spread to America
 - Men like Spurgeon, Tozer, J. Vernon McGee have all fought against it
 - Today it is seen in the Seeker Friendly - Willow Creek Model
 - Started with
 - Robert Schuller
 - Bill Hybels Willow Creek Model
 - Rick Warren Saddleback
 - **Briefly**
 - Based on marketing polls what the world wants to see in a church

- Then given them what they want
- Shorter messages
- No Bibles
- Water down the Word – to not be offensive
 - No Cross
 - No Sin
 - No Blood
- Only positive messages –
 - My messages are seen as harsh and unloving by seeker sensitive people!!!
- **Sadly We have more in a few in our area...**
 - Church that hire unsaved worship leaders to lead the church in worship
 - Churches that show movies then try to teach some moral lessons
 - Churches that sell WINE on Mothers Day
 - Churches that invite homosexual TV stars to read to children
 - Etc...
- **This is what it produces**
 - **Show Pic**
 - **Modern Jesus vs. Biblical Jesus**

- Wiersbe; “When ministry becomes performance, then the sanctuary becomes a theater, the congregation becomes an audience, worship becomes entertainment, and man’s applause and approval become the measure of success. But when ministry is for the glory of God, his presence moves into the sanctuary. Even the unsaved visitor will fall down on his face, worship God, and confess that God is among us (1 Corinthians 14:25).”

▪ This method IS / Will be judged BY God

- **IT DOES NOT WORK**

- Bill Hybels; “If you simply want a crowd, the “seeker-sensitive” model produces results. If you want solid, sincere, mature followers of Christ, it’s a bust.”

- <https://www.baptistpress.com/resource-library/news/first-person-a-shocking-confession-from-willow-creek-community-church-leaders/>

▪ 3rd Warn / Mark those Causing Division

Romans 16:17 (NKJV)

17 Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.

- Those who divide the Body of Christ need to be warned in love BUT firmness

○ 5th NEVER forget who the FLOCK belongs to

- Verse 2 says its “the flock of God”

- We must always remember to whom the flock belongs
- Its not any one person's flock except the Lord's
- And if anything happens to those sheep, the owner of the flock can hold that shepherd responsible for it
- A shepherd was a hired steward to take care of a flock
- It belongs to Him, He's the owner of it
- Elders are simply overseeing it in His behalf

The Enthusiasm For Ministry v. 2c

1 Peter 5:2 (NKJV)

*2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, **not by compulsion but willingly**, not for dishonest gain but eagerly;*

• First: Your Refusal To Feel You Have To Do It v. 2

○ **1st Not by Compulsion**

- Compulsion Meaning
 - The action or state of forcing or being forced to do something; constraint.
- If you are Serving Jesus this way – YOU'RE Missing the POINT
 - Jesus is AFTER the HEART!!!
 - We DON'T SERVE because He forces us to
 - We serve BECAUSE of His GREAT LOVE HE has for us
- 2 Lessons
 - 1st Serving Jesus is an Honor

- He Saved our souls – It's the least we can do
- We can NEVER out give GOD
- Illustration
 - I have not a “job” since 2001
 - It has NEVER felt like a JOB!!!
 - It's a calling – it's a great joy
 - I have been exhausted in the ministry BUT I have never grown tired of the ministry
 - It's a way of LIFE –
 - He Calls
 - He Equips
 - He Blesses
- 2nd This is why I will never push people to serve!!!
 - At Most I will strongly encourage –
 - Sometime people need a push
 - But I don't want people serving who don't want to serve
 - This may leave us very short handed
 - BUT the heart is more important

• **Second: Your Response To The Opportunity v. 2**

- **1st BUT Willingly**
 - Willingly: Means that you are ready to respond to any opportunity that comes

- Are READY to GO where Jesus wants to take you?
- A Willing Heart is a Blessing
 - 1st to GOD
 - 2nd To the body
 - You can tell the difference between someone with WILLING HEART vs. A Person who FEELS FORCED to serve
 - I will take a WILLING HEART with not much gifting vs. super gifting with a un-willing heart
 - It is AMAZING to see what God will do with a WILLING HEART

The Eagerness We Need In Serving v. 2d

1 Peter 5:2 (NKJV)

*2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, **not for dishonest gain but eagerly;***

• **First: It's Based On A Proper Motivation**

- **1st Not For Dishonest Gain**
 - Pastor's Pay
 - A Pastor better not be in it for the pay – what he can get
 - Can't have the attitude what can I get out of this!!!
 - Pastors have a right to be paid – but not over paid
 - Pastor's Position
 - Better not use your position for favors

- It's ALL about the money – has crept into the church
 - Example: Christian bands
- **2nd Eagerly**
 - Eagerly - Comes from two root words
 - One the word mind
 - And the other the word before
 - Meaning
 - Eagerness in serving God is based on a prepared mind, determined to do it
 - Not waiting till the last minute
 - But already making a commitment in your mind that I am going to serve Christ
 - Whatever the opportunity... “here I am Lord, use me”

The Exercise Of Your Leadership v. 3a

1 Peter 5:3 (NKJV)

3 nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock;

• First: Resist Being Over-Controlling

- **1st Nor as being lords Over**
 - **1st Leaders are not to dominate and control people lives**
 - I can tell you what the Bible says
 - I can encourage you to follow

- BUT I can't make you do anything
- Illustration
 - I get a little concerned when I see Pastors micro – manage people – LORD OVER
 - YES
 - Pastors Need to LEAD
 - Congregation needs to follow
 - But should NEVER be lord over
 - 2nd Leaders are NOT better than anyone else
- They just have a different role

• **Second: Remember You Are An Under-Shepherd**

- **1st Entrusted to You**
 - This means that someone else owns them
 - God has given somebody into your care to care of them
 - So the authority is God's; He owns the flock
 - He's just gave them to you to take care
 - Therefore we have a great responsibility to the One who owns them

The Example We Need to Be v. 3b

1 Peter 5:3 (NKJV)

*3 nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, **but being examples to the flock;***

• **First: Be an Example**

- **1st The word Example**

- The Greek word means – a literal pattern to follow step by step
- Just tracing the pattern out
- Is like putting a piece of tracing paper down on another piece of paper and simply tracing it...a pattern to follow
- If you were to translate the Greek word it is to mimic

1 Corinthians 11:1 (NKJV)

1 Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.

The Expectation Of Reward v. 4

1 Peter 5:4 (NKJV)

4 and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

- **First: Shepherds Reward**

- **2 WAYS**

- Rewards Here
- Rewards Later

- **1st Reward Here**

- Peter doesn't mention this – but plenty of other places – including Jesus
- There is a Satisfaction in Knowing...
 - That your life made a difference
 - That you're in the center of HIS will –
 - Not living for yourself but living for God and others

- You know His Approval
- **2nd Reward When Jesus Comes back**
 - A Crown!!
 - There is a REWARD that awaits us!!!
 - More than just eternal life a reward
 - The Reward is also based on what we do here

Closing

- Remember that as sheep, we are all supposed to reproduce
 - In our role of producing other sheep, we also carry the role of shepherds
 - And we all of a sudden have sheep to care of

Communion

- First: Remember (Looking Back at what Jesus did)
- Second: Repent / Reflect (Looking Within) 1 Cor. 11:27-28
- Third: Rejoice (Looking Forward) 1 Cor. 11:26
- Fourth: Reconcile (Looking Around) 1 Cor. 11:29, 33-34

1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (NKJV)

23 *For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread;*

24 *and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."*

25 *In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."*

26 *For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.*