

1 Peter 5:1 - 4

Experiencing Victory in a Hostile World

“... a primer for winning the war that really matters”

Expectations of Shepherds during Suffering (Part 2)

Questions for Discussion & Reflection

Answer the following questions and please be prepared to share with the larger group...

1. Read 1 Peter 5:1-4. What significance is there to the fact that God refers to us as “sheep” and Peter calls the body of Christ the “flock of God”?
2. According to verses 2-3, how should elders shepherd?
3. What significance might there be to the fact that Peter says those in a local body are “allotted to your charge”?
4. What is the “unfading crown of glory” in verse 4 that Peter says should motivate why elders do what they do?

Today's Learning Objectives:

To understand that God expects His shepherds to be _____ to the rest of the body of Christ during suffering and to be reminded and encouraged that _____ counts for eternity!

1 Peter 5:1-4

The _____ to Elders

¹ Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as *your* fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, ^{2a} shepherd...

_____ Should be Shepherded

^{2b} the flock of God among you...

_____ Must Shepherding Take Place

^{2c} exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to *the will* of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; ³ nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.

_____ Elders Should Shepherd Well

⁴ And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

The Exhortation to Elders (1 – 2a)

“Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, shepherd...”

- “Therefore” – refers back to 4:12-19 and that Peter’s readers were suffering _____ and being attacked for being Christ-like which he calls “fiery trials”
- God has entrusted the responsibility of spiritual leadership to “_____”... they are to “shepherd” the body of Christ well (Titus 1:5; 1 Timothy 5:17)
- “Exhort” – means to “call _____” or “to encourage or compel someone in a certain direction”; same word we get from the role the _____ plays in our lives

- **Understanding the words**

- “*Elder*” – emphasizes the man’s spiritual _____ necessary for this ministry; it is also a designation for the _____
- “*Bishop*” or “*Overseer*” – speaks of the general responsibility to _____, guard or protect
- “*Pastor*” – this is the word “shepherd” and expresses the priority in duties of _____, teaching and caring
- Peter uses the plural of “*elders*” to affirm that the office was always designated to be a _____ of men
 - Provides for more ministry _____
 - Protects the church against _____
 - Preserves the body from an unhealthy _____ of focus
 - Ensures _____ in the case a dominant leader leaves

- **Peter’s credentials**

- “*fellow elder*” – I am one like you who intimately understands the challenges and difficulties inherent in shepherding (John 21:15-17)
- “*witness of the sufferings of Christ*” – speaks of Peter’s authority in being an “_____” (Acts 1:12-17; Luke 6:12-16), that he too was and would be a “_____” (martus) and he was trustworthy source to declare God’s redemptive work
- “*partaker of the glory that is to be revealed*” – Peter offered these elders genuine hope of an eternal _____ for their faithful service; he had personally seen that coming glory in the _____; its future timing is guaranteed and will coincide with when Jesus Christ will be “*revealed*”

Who Should be Shepherd (2b)

“the flock of God among you...”

- Elders have been given the most serious, delegated stewardship and mandate by God to shepherd not their _____ flock, but “*the flock of God*”
- Jesus came to earth to redeem His church... it is _____ flock (John 10:11; Ephesians 5:25b-27)

- He ascended back to heaven and sent his Holy Spirit to empower His church (John 16:5-11; Acts 1:4-9)
- He gifted His church with the necessary spiritual _____ and gifted men to _____ it to become like Him (John 14:26; 15:15-17; Ephesians 4:11-12)
- The fact that Jesus purchased this flock with His own blood (Acts 20:28) emphasizes the immense _____ it is to the Lord

How Must Shepherding Take Place (2b)

“exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock...”

- “exercising oversight” (episkopeo) – means to “have scope over” or “to look upon or over”; we get our word “bishop” or “_____” from this word (1 Timothy 3:1)
- A key role of elders or shepherds is to watch over or care for the sheep to assess their condition, so as to lead, guard and feed them
- Why might this be especially true in times of suffering and persecution?

How Not To	How To	Observations
Not under “compulsion” (1 Cor 9:16)	“Voluntarily” (2 Cor 4:11, 14; Rom 1:14-16) “According to the will of God” (4:19; Heb 13:17)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elders must be _____ rather than lazy • Motivated by the _____ rather than coerced or forced to be faithful • Passionate and privileged rather than _____ • Internally motivated by love for Jesus and souls versus external pressure
Not for “sordid gain” (Isa 56:11; Jer 6:13; 2 Pet 2:3; 1 Tim 3:3; Titus 1:7; 1 Tim 5:17-18)	With “eagerness” (Acts 20:33-35; 2 Cor 12:15; 1 Tim 1:12-17)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sordid gain speaks of the _____ acquisition of it (i.e. – false prophets) • “Eagerness” has the character quality of _____ or enthusiasm

How Not To	How To	Observations
Not as “lording” it over (3 John 9-10)	“Prove to be examples to the flock” (Matthew 20:25-28) “to those allotted to your charge” (Matthew 18:5-14)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Lording” means to sinfully _____ or domineer over people and circumstances • Autocratic, oppressive intimidating leadership, demagoguery (an “example”) • “Allotted” – that which is given to another’s care; the Giver here is the Lord Himself • These are His precious children

Why Elders Should Shepherd Well (4)

“And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory”

- “*Chief Shepherd*” – one of the most beautiful titles for the Savior in all of Scripture
 - Shepherd imagery for _____ (Zech 13:7; Psa 23:1)
 - _____ Shepherd (John 10:11-12, 16, 26-27)
 - _____ Shepherd (Hebrews 13:20-21)
 - Shepherd and Guardian of our souls (1 Pet 2:25)
- “*Appears*” – means “to make manifest”, “to make clear” or “to _____”; refers to Christ’s Second Coming
- “*The unfading crown of glory*” – what Shepherds will receive at that time
 - In the Greco-Roman world, crowns were awards for _____ at athletic events (1 Corinthians 9:24-25)
 - Temporal crowns would quickly rust, fade or, if made from plants, die quickly
 - Peter says an elder/shepherd’s “*crown*” will be “*unfading*” or never _____ and be eternally “*of glory*”; probably better translated as “*the unfading crown that is glory*”
 - Crown that is _____ (James 1:12)
 - Crown that is _____ (2 Timothy 4:8)
 - Crown that is _____ (1 Thessalonians 2:19)
 - _____ is enough for any shepherd to desire to serve faithfully; this will be “*in proportion to*” his faithful service