

Elders: Your Spiritual Shepherds **Acts 20:13-38**

Main Point:

Since you belong to Jesus, you need to be shepherded by elders; therefore, pray for your elders and gratefully receive their ministry.

1. You need to be shepherded by elders.
2. You need to be shepherded by elders who selflessly serve the Lord.
3. You need to be shepherded by elders who faithfully minister the Word to you.
4. You need to be shepherded by elders who watch to protect you from evil.
5. You need to be shepherded by elders who tirelessly give of themselves for you.
6. You need to be shepherded by elders because you belong to Jesus, the Great Shepherd.

Dennis Johnson “Paul rehearsed his integrity in office not to defend his reputation from criticism but to teach the elders through his own example, to engrave indelibly on their memories the picture of his tireless, tearful, truth-telling service as a pattern for their own ministry, as shepherds of God’s flock.”

Isaiah 53:6 ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way ... (NKJV)

Derek Thomas “Humility is not thinking little of ourselves; it is not thinking of ourselves at all!”

Dennis Johnson “Our message is not our own, but God’s. It has urgent, life-or-death consequences. Although the watchman himself cannot bring either the judgment or the rescue, what he does or fails to do has eternal consequences.”

Dennis Johnson “Paul knew that absolutely everybody he met, upstanding or down and out, self-respecting or scorned by others, needed the grace offered in the gospel of Christ.”

1 Peter 5:2-3 ² Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; ³ nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; (NKJV)

Robert Murray McCheyne “The greatest need of my people is my personal holiness.”

Psalms 23:4 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. (NKJV)

Ephesians 4:28 ²⁸ Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. (NKJV)

Mark 10:45 ⁴⁵ “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” (NKJV)

Derek Thomas “Paul’s ministry had cost him emotionally and continued to do so. His involvement was not out of a mere sense of professionalism. His activity was more than a mere routine. He had become involved in the work on a personal level. Paul had fallen in love with the people to whom he ministered.”

Dennis Johnson “He procured this treasure at the highest price imaginable and expects his shepherds to guard it with care.”

Hebrews 13:17 ¹⁷ Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account ... (NKJV)

Hebrews 13:20-21 ²⁰ Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep ... ²¹ make you complete in every good work to do His will ... (NKJV)

Derek Thomas “This is a passage that speaks to the need for elders and ministers of the church to pastor the flock, imitating not just the apostle Paul, but the Lord Jesus himself.”