

The Shepherd's Call

1 Peter 5:1-4

PART TWO

Introduction

“So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed” (v1).

“He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil” (1 Timothy 3:6).

“For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare” (Philippians 2:20).

“Let no one despise you for your youth” (1 Timothy 4:12).

The primary make up for an elder then is that he is: *humble, faithful, servant-hearted, compassionate, and able to teach God's Word.*

“And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:11-13).

“pastors and teachers” This is one and the same office.

“shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly” (v2).

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The office of pastor/elder is not a job to apply for, it is a calling to submit to.

The flock of God, the congregation, must recognize this man for his character and shepherding qualities.

“as God would have you” (v2).

“Prayer and the ministry of the word” are the two primary activities of the under shepherd (Acts 6:4).

“Not to please the flock, not to attract the applause of men, not to gain name and fame, but to do the will of the Chief Shepherd, must be the aim of each true servant of Christ” (F.B. Meyer, 187).

“not for shameful gain, but eagerly” (v2).

Timothy took a genuine interest in the welfare of the Philippian believers (Philippians 2:20).

Nothing but love for Christ can produce this type of selfless caring and sacrificial service.

“Do you love me.”

“not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock” (v3).

“not domineering”

The overarching virtue of any pastor or elder is that he must be a humble man.

“gentle and humble in heart” (Matthew 11:29).

There is nothing more unappealing and *un-Christlike* than an arrogant, domineering spiritual leader.

The elder must *earn* the respect of the flock, not insist on it.

“being examples to the flock” (v3).

“But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life” (1 Timothy 1:16).

“Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ” (1 Corinthians 11:1).

“set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity” (1 Timothy 4:12).

The Faithful Shepherd: *Feeds, Leads, Corrects, and Protects*

I. The Shepherd Feeds

“And I brought you into a plentiful land to enjoy its fruits and its good things” (Jeremiah 2:7).

“Feed the flock of God” (v2; KJV). One of the most tender and loving promises our Lord gives His people:

“And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding” (Jeremiah 3:15).

A Shepherd’s Warning

“Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy, and say to them, even to the shepherds, Thus says the Lord God: Ah, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep? You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fat ones, but you do not feed the sheep” (Ezekiel 34:2-3).

“Concerning the prophets:” the prophet Jeremiah said, “my heart is broken with in me; all my bones shake.... because of the LORD and because of his holy words” (Jeremiah 23:9).

“Thus says the Lord of hosts: ‘Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the Lord. They say continually to those who despise the word of the Lord, “It shall be well with you”; and to everyone who stubbornly follows his own heart, they say, “No disaster shall come upon you.” ‘For who among them has stood in the council of the Lord to see and to hear his word, or who has paid attention to his word and listened?’” (Jeremiah 23:16-18).

The flock of God must be fed regularly through faithful preaching the truth of God's Word in its entirety.

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15).

II. The Shepherd Leads

"Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young" (Isaiah 40:10-11).

"They shall feed along the ways; on all bare heights shall be their pasture; they shall not hunger or thirst, neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them, for he who has pity on them will lead them, and by springs of water will guide them" (Isaiah 49:9-10).

Concern that some sheep had lost their love for the Shepherd: "Thus says the Lord, 'I remember the devotion of your youth, your love as a bride, how you followed me in the wilderness'" (Jeremiah 2:2).

"The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice" (John 10:3-4).

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep" (John 10:11).

He leadeth me beside still waters (Psalm 23:2).

"For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes" (Revelation 7:17).

III. The Shepherd Corrects

The Word of God is the Shepherd's Rod and Staff

"My servant David shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd. They shall walk in my rules and be careful to obey my statutes" (Ezekiel 37:24).

"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way" (Isaiah 53:6).

"But if they had stood in my council, then they would have proclaimed my words to my people, and they would have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their deeds" (Jeremiah 23:22).

John 4:7-25: The Good Shepherd feeds, leads, and corrects a wayward, misguided woman in Samaria.

So what are the "living waters"? The ever-present Spirit of Christ and His eternal living Word (cf Heb. 4:12)

"Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst'" (John 6:35).

"On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, 'If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, "Out of his heart will flow rivers of

living water.” Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified” (John 7:37-39).

IV. The Shepherd Protects

"Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd keeps his flock'" (Jeremiah 31:10).

Wolves and Lambs

"The Biblical principle is simple: *Protect the lambs, not the wolves.*"

"I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock" (Acts 20:29).

"As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness" (Ezekiel 34:12).

"And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory" (v4).