

Peter's First Epistle

I-PETER

CHAPTER 5:1-4

TAPE SM. #263 - JUNE 15, 1997

TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

"RECOGNIZING A GOOD SHEPHERD"

THE CHRISTIANS JOURNEY THROUGH THE WILDERNESS OF THE WORLD

THEME OF THE BOOK:

1 Peter 5:12

I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God in which you stand.

INTRODUCTION: Reading of the Text 5:1-4

THE BIBLE SAYS THAT

We Are Like Sheep

and sheep are cute their fluffy

Psalm 95:7a

For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture,
and the sheep of His hand.

I used to surgically operate on sheep in a research lab and let me tell you something... those cute fluffy guys stink really bad, their breath is the worse and their dumb...

In Fact

Isaiah 53:6a

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned,
every one, to his own way;

IT'S TRUE - GOD CALLS US SHEEP

Did you know that sheep prove
that a shepherd exists!

The existence of Sheep is just another proof that evolution is
not scientific

**Sheep would have had to evolve after humans
because sheep cannot live without human care**

Snakes can hang out together - no problem
Birds can flock together - no problem
Fish can go to school together - no problem

But sheep cannot live without a shepherd

Last Week:

Peter Announced That...

1 Peter 4:17a

*IF... For the time has come for **judgment** to begin at the house of God;*

* **Judgment** *GRK 2917 krima (kree'-mah)*

is the type of involvement that disciplines, instructs and
exhort toward holiness in living and lifestyle

Which Leads Us to The Theme of the Text:

“RECOGNIZING A GOOD SHEPHERD”

Based Upon Verse 2

Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, **serv**ing as **overseers**, not
by **constraint** but **willingly**, not for dishonest
gain but **eagerly**;

The Chapter Outline is divided in three sections:

Verses 1-4	Shepherding	the flock of God
Verses 5-7	Submission	to the will of God
Verses 8-11	Suffering in	the light of God's watchful eye

The Times of Difficulty that *was coming against the new testament church in the mid 60's and 70's under Roman Persecution proved to be a period that made Peter's writings invaluable;*

Peter was Preparing The Church to be held
together around its spiritual leaders as they had be chosen by the Lord
to watch over the body for it's well being

The Church is God's "Theocracy" form of church government
there's Jesus - Jesus little helps - And the Jesus People

**And God has created "Shepherds" to Love his
People**

*(The more I'm in the ministry the more I believe it's a miracle,
that God would have a man, be given a heart that cares if his
Sheep eat or not...)*

Matthew 9:36

But when Jesus saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.

**IF YOU'RE A CHRISTIAN WORKER CALLED BY GOD
YOU WILL BE MOVED WITH COMPASSION FOR THEM**

With Sadness, we say...

There is a disgust and disdain for ministers and for the church, like never before in America...

Moral Failure, Heresy, Double Standards, and general Misrepresentation of the Heart and Mind of God has led many people to stay out of church...

There is almost a “**Little Red Riding Hood**” syndrome that many people struggle with over the misrepresentation of Christ and Christianity that has befallen them...

There are people out there who are hurt and wounded by what ministries have done to them...
But Remember This one thing...

- Jesus is not like them
- Jesus is not mad at you
- Jesus would never abuse you
- and Jesus is more concerned about you, then you are...

So, Stop your attacks against Jesus
(Many withdraw from fellowship and the word, meaning to afflict Jesus)

“RECOGNIZING A GOOD SHEPHERD”

1.) Knowing Christ Intimately

vv. 1

Verse 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:

I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ

I was reminded of an adventure of mine a couple a months ago, *one Friday evening in Jerusalem. I was walking and had gotten separated from the group I was with, and so I was trying to find my way to the wailing wall, the western wall for Sabbath. The problem was I was in the Arab section of the city, it was getting darker and I felt very much like a foreigner... and turning down a street and feeling a little anxious I noticed that the street was named “Via Della Rosa” - the road that Jesus had carried his cross on a Friday so long ago, suffering along the way (YOU COULD ALMOST HEAR THE CROWD OF EYEWITNESSES IN YOUR HEAD)*

**BUT IN A VERY REAL WAY
PETER WITNESSED HIS SUFFERINGS**

Matthew 26:57-58

And those who had laid hold of Jesus led Him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled. ⁵⁸ But Peter followed Him at a distance to the high priest's courtyard. And he went in and sat with the servants **to see the end.**

You got to wonder why Peter was there

What was drawing him to watch the tortures - was he hoping to rescue Jesus somehow

Whatever the reason - *Peter saw horrible things there*

(Maybe inside himself he was thinking that somehow he could support Jesus)

It eventually clicked for Peter

HE HAD SEEN FIRSHTHAND THE PRICE THAT GOD HAD PAID FOR OUR SINS

*If these people meant that much to God -
- then for God, I will care for them !*

YOUR MEANING AND PURPOSE FOR SERVING BECOMES CLEAR

I will serve his people - because I love Him

If you love Jesus - you won't be able to be
a spectator

Verse 1a

The elders who are among you I **exhort**

* ***The elders, pastors, shepherds, bishops***

Jesus is Always Faithful to Feed His People

Who are among you

Acts 14:22-23

strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God." ²³ So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

Verse 1b

1.) Leadership that is Humble by Nature

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:

- 1) *A fellow elder*
- 2) *A witness of the sufferings of Christ*
- 3) *A partaker of the glory that will be revealed*

These qualifications are Peter's,
as well as all those who have been called to shepherd...

- 1) *A fellow elder = a deep sense of commitment to a local fellowship*
- 2) *A witness of the sufferings of Christ = God puts within the heart Jesus' concerns*
- 3) *A partaker of the glory that will be revealed = the meaning to ministry*

Shepherds in Judea were and are, hired hands or servants
they're paid to tend to the flock.

But when a good shepherd couldn't be found, the owner would appoint his son to shepherd the flock

IN THAT CASE THE SON BECAME SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONDITION OF
THE SHEEP -

John 10:11-15

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.¹² "But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. ¹³ "The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. ¹⁴ "I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. ¹⁵ "As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.

2.) Having a Vital Love for the Sheep vv. 2

Verse 2

*Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, **serv**ing as **overseers**, not by **constraint** but **willingly**, not for dishonest gain but **eagerly**;*

2.) Leadership that knows - God Owns the Sheep

Verse 2a

*Shepherd **the flock of God** which is among you*

The flock of God

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? ²⁰ For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

The Shepherd's Training Manual - Psalm 23

To Shepherd the flock is to:

Be available and visible to the fold at all times, for them

vv. 1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want (lack).

Hebrews 13:5

Let your **conduct** be without covetousness; be **content** with such things as you have. **(WHY?)** For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."
HE'S WITH YOU - ALWAYS

Matthew 28:20 (KJV)

lo (?), I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

To shepherd the flock is to:

Feed them a healthy food, well balanced diet

vv. 2 He **makes me** to lie down in green pastures;
he **leads me** beside the still waters.

Jeremiah 3:15

"And I will give you shepherds according to My heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.

To shepherd the flock is to:

Get them back into the fold. To walk before them on the straight and narrow

vv. 3 He **restores my soul**;
he **leads me** in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

God Loves Reconciliation!

2 Corinthians 5:19

that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

Knowing the Heart of God

Matthew 18:11-13

"For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost. ¹² "What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them goes astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine and go to the mountains to seek the one that is straying? ¹³ "And if he should find it, assuredly, I say to you, he rejoices more over that sheep than over the ninety-nine that did not go astray.

THE PRODIGAL - LUKE 15:11

To shepherd the flock is to:

cause them to see Jesus through faith in His word

vv. 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.

Sheep, their eyesight and hearing

To shepherd the flock is to:

Know the welfare of the flock

vv. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over.

Proverbs 27:23-27

Be diligent to know the state of your flocks, and attend to your herds; ²⁴ For riches are not forever, nor does a crown endure to all generations. ²⁵ When the hay is removed, and the tender grass shows itself, and the herbs of the mountains are gathered in, ²⁶ The lambs will provide your clothing, and the goats the price of a field; ²⁷ You shall have enough goats' milk for your food, for the food of your household, and the nourishment of your maidservants.

To shepherd the flock is to:

is to give them assurance & security

vv. 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.

1 Timothy 5:17-18a

Let the elders who **rule well** be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. ¹⁸ For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,

3.) Being a Pastor/Shepherd just like Jesus'

Verse 2b

*servicing as overseers, not by **constraint** but **willingly**, not for dishonest gain but **eagerly**;*

Jesus' Example on Earth & Now

4.) What Godly Shepherding is not

Verse 2c

*not by **constraint***

*

Constraint GRK

being compelled by force or intimidation or pressure by authoritative rule

You will find yourself serving

THE PASTOR, OR THE LEADERSHIP, OR THE CHURCH

THE RESULT IS;

YOU'LL GET HURT - YOU'LL GET BITTER - YOU'LL BURN OUT

Verse 2c

and not for dishonest gain

(KJV - not for **filthy lucre**)

*

Gain GRK aischrokerdes (ahee-skhrok-er-dace');

sordid greedy. To look for it. To seek it as employment

Money is innocent in and of itself

Personally, I believe that in the ministry, money should never be viewed as MONEY but as tools

BUT

Some people go into the ministry for the money of it

Jeremiah 23:1

"Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture!" says the LORD.

5) What Godly Shepherding is

It's to be a love, a joy, a blessing

* *Willingly* GRK

to be freely giving out of joy
and thankfulness

Never should we be serving because

"Well, someone has to do it"

**A TRUE SHEPHERD WILL SEE TO IT THAT THE CHURCH IS
SERVICED BY PEOPLE WITH WILLING HEARTS**

A shepherd's heart verses

a demanding spirit

My Ministry - My Church - My.....

6.) True Shepherds are Called by God

* *Eagerly* GRK *with enthusiasm!!!*

implying, being willing to serve "without pay,
without reward"

Even “without recognition”

Jeremiah 3:15

"And I will give you shepherds **according to My heart**, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.

3.) Having an Example among the Flock

vv. 3

Verse 3

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

7.) Leadership that is not - elevated

Verse 3a

*nor as being **lords** over those entrusted to you*

*

Lords GRK 2634 katakurieuo (kat-ak-oo-ree-yoo'-o)

to seek to control the people. To overcome them by control
to quench them

God's Shepherds are to Promote the people

THIS IS A QUESTION FOR THE CHRISTIAN LEADERS...

- do see the people around you as “less-blessed” then you are ?
 - do you see them. less-spiritual as you are ?
- do think for a moment that because your the pastor or leader that you are somehow better... you've allowed yourself to become deceived by pride

Paul says

“love is the qualifying factor for what is acceptable to God

To the church at Ephesus and Pergamos in Revelation 2

Jesus wrote:

Revelation 2:15

"Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine and the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

The Nicolaitans were a group of elders that had arisen within the Christian church who Nico (to control, to manipulate, to rule) Laity (the people or flock)

according to historians, the term, clergy and laity came from these guys which is nowhere in scripture

To rule over the people in place of God also known as "The doctrine of Balaam"

Number 22-25

Balaam was God's anointed prophet who began to use his calling as a profit-making scheme

Give the sheep the word

Let them chew on it, let the Lord speak to them with it,
watch them grow,
as they reproduce because of their healthy condition

8.) Leadership that is Careful

Verse 3b

those entrusted to you

James 3:1

My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.

9.) Leadership that is Observable

Verse 3c

*but being **examples** to the flock;*

John 21:15

Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "**Feed My lambs.**" :16 He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "**Tend My sheep.**" :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.**"

- * **Feed = GRK 1006 bosko (bos'-ko)**
to prove pasture. To have enough, to graze on
- * **Tend = GRK 4165 poimaino (poy-mah'-ee-no);**
supervise them with hands and eyes. To care for them in every aspect of life

4.) Having a Desire to Please Christ Alone vv. 4

Verse 4

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

10.) We Are All Stewards of what is within our grasp

Verse 4a

*and when the **Chief Shepherd appears***

A day of accounting is coming, and we look forward to it with joy

Whatever He has given me to do - it is that, that I want to do

Philippians 3:12

...but I press on to take hold of that
for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

11.) A Day of Anticipation and Glory

Verse 4b

*you **will** receive the crown of glory **that does not fade** away.*

Whatever the crown of glory is that Jesus gives to the faithful shepherd,
it will never fade away is the reward -

With all due respect to the Lord...

I really don't care about receiving a crown of glory...

Unless it Blesses Him

and that's the joy of it all

Revelation 4:8-11

The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"⁹ Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever,¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:¹¹ "You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created."

If crown chuckin' blesses him... then crown chuckin' it is

John 10:16

"And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.

THE SHEEP TOWARDS THE SHEPHERD

Every Christian has (3) *Responsibilities toward the Leadership of their Local, or Community Assembly - Your Church.*

Hebrews 13:7

Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct.

Hebrews 13:17

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.

Hebrews 13:24

Greet all those who rule over you, and all the saints. Those from Italy greet you.

THE SHEPHERD TOWARD THE SHEEP

Isaiah 42:3a

A bruised reed, He will not break and smoking flax, He will not quench;
(a reed that has been kicked causing it to fall over)
(a fire that has diminished into a smoldering ember, he doesn't pour water on it)