

Servant Leaders (9)

(1 Peter 5)

Finding Hope in a
Hopeless World

The Chief Shepherd, Shepherds, and Flock

To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders.

And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen. (1 Peter 5:1-5, 10-11)

Peter's Final Exhortation

- Elders (presbyterous), pastors, shepherds, overseers
 - To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed (1 Peter 5:1).
 - Elders are to be godly men: mature, experienced Christians, charged with leading the local churches.
- Peter: A witness to Christ's suffering
 - Peter's exhortation as a fellow elder (humility).
 - (Authorization): Peter witnessed the very sufferings of Christ. He also identifies as a partaker in the future glory that will be revealed when Christ returns.
 - I am... also a **partaker** of the glory that will be revealed (1 Peter 5:1, NKJV): I have seen the glory that is to be revealed. I have **partaken** of it (Matthew 17).
- Witnesses
 - God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it (Acts 2:32).
 - As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard (Acts 4:20).
 - We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem (Acts 10:39).

Leadership 101

- What Is the role that shepherds play?
 - Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock (1 Peter 5:2-3).
- Transactional leaders -> Transformational leaders
 - Ministry out of obligation/compulsion -> Ministry willingly and joyfully;
 - Ministry for shameful gain -> Ministry out of enthusiasm and eagerness for service;
 - Leadership to domineer or lord it over people -> Leadership demonstrated by being an example.
- Leaders should know that the flock belongs to God
 - The community of believers belongs to God, not its human leaders. So, they provide leadership to a people owned and loved by the Father.
 - Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" ...Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." Again, Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" ...Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" ...Jesus said, "Feed my sheep (John 21:15-17).

Practicing Transformational Leadership

- Five ways to feed the sheep
 - Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them, not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock (1 Peter 5:2-3).
- 1. Be shepherds...under your care (among you)
 - Be shepherds of God's flock that is **under your care** (those entrust you, v. 3).
 - Pastors need to dedicate their full attention to caring for the flock as their first priority. Who is your flock? Are you focusing on them to lead, care, and guide them all the time?
 - When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it (1 Samuel 17:34-35).

2. Leaders **oversee** the flock of God

- Be shepherds of God's flock, **watching over them** (1 Peter 5:2a)
- Watching over (leaders are overseers): Looking diligently to the flock so that they go not astray; and restoring of them in the spirit of meekness; admonishing, reproofing them for sin; and preserving them from false teachers, and from all errors and heresies.
- **Keep watch over** yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has **made you overseers**. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood (Acts 20:28).

3. Leaders minister eagerly and willingly

- Not because you must, but because you are **willing** (1 Peter 5:2b): Not ruling them with force, cruelty, or complaints but with all uprightness and integrity, for the honor and glory of God.
- You have not strengthened the weak or healed the sick or bound up the injured. You have not brought back the strays or searched for the lost. You have ruled them harshly and brutally (Ezekiel 34:4).
- Now Daniel so **distinguished** himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom (Daniel 6:3).

4. Ministering the flock for divine glory, not shameful gain

- Not pursuing dishonest (shameful) gain, but eager to serve (1 Peter 5:2c).
- Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, **not a lover of money** (1 Timothy 3:2-3).
- Leading God's people with a selfless, willing heart, rather than for personal profit, power, or prestige. It's about serving eagerly and being an example to the flock, motivated by a desire to please Christ and an eternal reward, not by financial gain or domineering control.

5. Ministering the flock by example, not domination


- Not lording it over those entrusted to you but **being examples** to the flock (1 Peter 5:3).
- Authoritarian leadership -> Servant leadership.
- By being examples, leaders can visually show the congregation what it means to live out the Christian faith, embodying the teachings of Christ in a practical way.
- He (Jesus) poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him (John 13:5).

Exhortation for Leaders

- The reward for leaders
 - When the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away (1 Peter 5:4).
- Jesus the Chief Shepherd
 - You have the Chief (Perfect, Good, Great) Shepherd shepherding you, who laid his life down for you, who is watching over you and bringing you to the green pastures of his eternal glory.
 - Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many (Matthew 20:28).
 - Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep (Hebrews 13:20).
- Reward that should motivate leaders to be faithful
 - Leaders live for Christ's approval, not human praise.
 - Leaders live for heaven's reward, not earth's pleasure.
 - Leaders live for lasting glory, not temporary gifts.

God's Promises for Faithful Leaders

- The church submits to leaders
 - In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders (1 Peter 5:5).
 - God brings His elect into the kingdom and strengthens them to stand firm in the faith.
 - The people of God must submit to their leadership unless they command to do something God forbids or forbid something God commands.
- Jesus, your Chief Shepherd, will never fail to shepherd you and his flock.
 - He will never fail to exercise perfect oversight.
 - He will never fail to shepherd with eager willingness.
 - He will never fail to shepherd for immortal glory.
 - He will never fail as a perfect example.
- God's blessing upon leaders
 - The God of all grace... will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen (1 Peter 5:10-11)

A woman in a white robe stands on a rocky cliff, arms raised in praise, looking out over a vast, sunlit canyon. A small table with food and a lantern sits beside her.

Thanksgiving in the Wilderness: Finding Gratitude When Life is Hard

Next sermon series: 11/9-12/7 (5 weeks)