

sermon notes

December 28, 2025 | Pastor Tony Caffey, Messiah Bible Church
No Other Name | "Paul's Farewell Address in Miletus (Part 2)" | **Acts 20:25–38**

Four Things Good Shepherds Should Be Able to Say:

- 1) "I instructed the sheep in the full _____ of _____"
(Acts 20:25–27)
- 2) "I cared for the sheep as an _____ - _____"
(Acts 20:28)
- 3) "I protected the sheep from _____"
(Acts 20:29–31)
- 4) "I was a _____, not a _____"
(Acts 20:32–38)

Six Identifying Markers for Wolves:

- 1) Wolves are _____ - _____
- 2) Wolves care more about _____ than the _____
of the flock
- 3) Wolves defy _____
- 4) Wolves try to _____ the Chief Shepherd
- 5) Wolves often pitch _____ points of _____
- 6) Wolves can often be _____, but they don't _____
the fruit of the Spirit

Questions for Further Application of God's Word:

GO DEEPER

Read Acts 20:17–38. Write down five leadership principles from the Apostle Paul. How are these principles demonstrated in the life of Jesus? How does the cross of Christ motivate us in our leadership tasks?

Explain the significance of the "shepherding" metaphor for leadership in the local church? What is the significance of the "flock" metaphor for a local church? Are church people like sheep? Why should the under-shepherds and the Chief Shepherd be differentiated? Is there a way in which the under-shepherds are sheep too?

GET PERSONAL

What are some practical, biblical ways that pastors and elders can shepherd those under their care? Write down four or five ways with scriptural support. List four or five ways that sheep can be a blessing to their shepherds.

If your family or church family were to write only one of two words—*giver* or *taker*—on your tombstone when you die, which word would they use? Have you found Jesus's statement to be true: "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (20:35)? What are some practical ways that you are (right now, this week!) following Jesus's advice?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Take a closer look at Acts 20:36–38. If you had one last chance to communicate with your loved ones before saying goodbye to them forever, what would you say? What would you want to avoid saying? How would you pray? How might you live your life in such a way that you express your love and appreciation for others more readily—as if it could be your last chance to do so, which it could be?

ADVANCED QUESTIONS FOR DEEPER STUDY

What offices of leadership does the NT give us for the church? What's the difference between a deacon, an overseer, an elder, a shepherd, and a pastor? According to the Bible, should local churches be autonomous? Should they have only local leaders? What about a hierarchy of leaders over multiple churches? What passages of the Bible speak to this issue? For help with this, see the following sermons:

- 1) Tony Caffey, "1 Peter 5:1–5: An Encouragement to Elders and Deacons," 11-02-22: <https://www.messiahbible.org/1-peter-5-1-5-an-encouragement-to-elders-and-deacons>
- 2) Robin Harris, "1 Timothy 3:8–13: Deacons An Important Role," 08-06-23: <https://www.messiahbible.org/1-timothy-3-8-13-deacons-an-important-role>
- 3) Tony Caffey, "Hebrews 13:17–25, 'A Set of Final Expectations,'" 07-16-23: <https://www.messiahbible.org/hebrews-13-17-25-a-set-of-final-expectations>