

# SHEPHERDS & SHEEP - 1 PETER 5

## Vs.1-5

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: 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; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

- Remember **John 21:15-17**?
  - We know that Peter was married (**Matthew 8:14**; **Mark 1:30**; **Luke 4:38**; **1 Corinthians 9:5**), and when considering Paul's instruction regarding elders, that he had children (**1 Timothy 3:4**).
- Take note how elder is used interchangeably with shepherd.
  - Look at **1 Timothy 3:1-2** and **Titus 1:5, 7**. You can see how shepherd, elder and overseer is used interchangeably.
  - The Greek behind "elder" is also translated "presbyter". It refers to someone who is older. In the spiritual realm it's someone who is mature spiritually and wise due to time and experience.
  - The Greek behind "shepherd" is also translated "pastor". One who leads, cares for, and protects a flock.
  - The Greek behind "overseer" in **1 Timothy 3:1** is also translated "bishop". It has to do with the oversight or supervision of the flock.
- Take note of "among you."
  - **Acts 14:23** *And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.*
  - **Acts 20:17** *Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him.*
  - **Acts 20:28** *Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which He obtained with His own blood.*
  - **Philippians 1:1** *Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons:*
- Elders should . . .
  - Want to do the work. They're not pressured.
    - **Matthew 9:35-36** *And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When He saw the crowds, He had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.*
  - Want to help others and not themselves.
    - **Ezekiel 34:3** *"You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fat ones, but you do not feed the sheep."*
  - Want to lead by example, not purely "ruling" (though they do rule through their teaching)
    - **1 Timothy 5:17** *Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.*

- **1 Thessalonians 5:12** *We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you,*
- **2 Corinthians 1:24** *Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy, for you stand firm in your faith.*
- **Ezekiel 34:4** *"The weak you have not strengthened, the sick you have not healed, the injured you have not bound up, the strayed you have not brought back, the lost you have not sought, and with force and harshness you have ruled them."*
- Your leader is just that . . . a leader. He's not there to hand out marching orders, but rather leads the way by example.
- One would be wise to remember . . .
  - It's not the local shepherd's sheep, but the chief Shepherd's.
    - **John 10:14-15** *"I am the good shepherd. I know My own and My own know Me, just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep."*
    - **Ezekiel 34:11-12** *"For thus says the Lord God: "Behold, I, I Myself will search for My sheep and will seek them out. 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."*
- But, they need our help. Let's not make it difficult for them.
  - **Hebrews 13:17** *Obeys your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.*
  - You ever know someone who's always causing troubles for shepherds? Here's the thing - there's a lot on their plate if they're doing the job well. They have to help those who are struggling and navigate difficult situations or concerns. Let's try to help them and think carefully before we bring a complaint or problem. The younger can be good examples as well, you know? We all have a responsibility to our elders.

## **Vs. 6-11**

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you. Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To Him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

- What a promising and beautiful passage. Simply put, but simply forgot. God's not a detached God. He's not the one who treats life like a checklist. No - He actually cares about what's going on. He cares about HIS CREATION. He's got skin in the game. Why would He give you His Son, but ignore your concerns? And yes - we have anxieties in life. Don't let anyone tell you we don't. They're wasting their breath. Do we want them to take over our lives? Well, no - that's why we're crying out to God. But, they are there. Paul had daily anxieties because of the churches (**2 Corinthians 11:28**).
- **Luke 22:31** *"Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat,"*

- But we have a part to play as well. We've got to fight against Satan. So - get serious and stay awake. Listen, if we were in the fields of Africa, you think you'd be watching your back? Satan is a hungry lion - he wants to devour you. He doesn't care that you're anxious. In fact, it seems as though he enjoys seeing you suffer.
- Others are suffering. I was in a conversation with someone outside of Christ recently and we had to go down this road. You're not the only one suffering, and to be honest, many are going through worse things. There's death . . . and there's even life so difficult you'd long for death. But in this passage, Christians were to remember that they weren't alone in their suffering. Like Elijah was told - not everyone has bowed down to Baal. So, with this knowledge, we all pull from the same source of strength - the Savior.
- It's "a little while". In the scheme of things, it's always a little while. At the end of the road waits the grace of God.
  - **Luke 22:32** but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."
  - Remember, Peter was certainly put back to work. Peter only needed to worry about His walk – **John 21:15-23**.
    - Yes, Jesus had restored, called, strengthened and established Peter. He can do the same for you.

### **Vs. 12-14**

By Silvanus, a faithful brother as I regard him, I have written briefly to you, exhorting and declaring that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it. She who is at Babylon, who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings, and so does Mark, my son. Greet one another with the kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

- Silvanus in the epistles, but otherwise known as Silas (**Acts 15-18**). He accompanied Paul during most of his 2nd missionary journey. Perhaps he wrote the letter for Peter and delivered it as well. Either way, the words were Peter's and he was directed by the Holy Spirit.
- The reason for this letter? "Exhorting and declaring that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it." Many times we separate the grace of God and suffering, but it's actually because of His grace that we endure. It's through these graceful times that God strengthens us and molds us to the image of His Son.
- "She who is at Babylon" . . . who is this? KJV translates it "the church that is at Babylon". Problem is the term "church" is not in the original text. This could simply be the church in Babylon located on the Euphrates. Some say it's a well known sister there or Peter's wife. Others find it to be a symbolic name for Rome (also called an archetype). Perhaps better to take the literal approach?
- "Mark, my son." Son in the spiritual sense. Paul wrote the same way, so it's not unique. His mother's name was Mary; and he was a cousin of Barnabas (**Acts 12:2; Colossians 4:10**). Also known as John Mark. He was with Paul during the first missionary journey, but he ended up leaving them (**Acts 12:5, 13**). This caused some difficulties between Paul and Barnabas who wanted Mark to travel with them (**Acts 15:26-31**). Over time the relationship was restored between Paul and Mark (**Colossians 4:10; 2 Timothy 4:11**). He is the same Mark behind "the gospel according to Mark." Traditionally believed to be heavily influenced by Peter. Considered, "the interpreter of Peter."
- We end with peace. I hope this study leaves you with peace and hope no matter your situation.