

Title: Shepherd the Flock of God Through Suffering

Passage: 1 Peter 5:1-4

Draft Summary:

I. Elders

II. Exhortation

III. Eternity

Application:

1 Peter 5:2-3

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.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- What is your motive in leading or influencing those around you?
- What next steps will you take in response to the sermon?

Introduction

- a particular passage doesn't need to be about you to be for you.
- passage applies to not only elders and deacons but also to all who are in Christ.
 - We all are called to minister in different ways influencing others. God has given all spiritual gifts to build up the body of Christ.

Passage:

1 Peter 5:1-4

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.

EXPOSITION

Context of Passage

1 Peter 4:12-14

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

1 Peter 4:19

Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

- Audience was among those who had been persecuted and under attack; they were suffering.
- Today, the church is suffering and undergoing real persecution for faith in Christ.

2 Timothy 3:12

Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,

I. ELDERS

1 Peter 5:1

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:

Churches have elders

- the church was led by appointed elders.
- God's clear design of the church.

Elders seen as shepherds

- leaders in the church are seen as doing the work of the shepherd

Ephesians 4:11

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,

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.

as a fellow elder

- identifies with the church elders as a fellow one (not elevating himself above others)

a witness of the sufferings of Christ,

- Peter was an actual witness of the arrest and suffering of Christ through the crucifixion
- Witness = sees something and gives testimony of what was seen.

Acts 2:32

This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses.

- witness = bear witness by both my words and by my life.

a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed

- Peter referring to Jesus' Transfiguration (past glory)

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

- Peter also referring to the glory that will be revealed in the future.

1 Corinthians 2:9

But, as it is written,

"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"—

1 Thessalonians 4:16

For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

II. EXHORTATION

1 Peter 5:2-3

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.

shepherd

- we are all called to serve and have influence among others - whether it be 1 or 100.
- Shepherd = act as a shepherd, do the work of the shepherd, care for others
 - Command by God
- Work of the shepherd:
 - Lead, guide, protect, feed, nurture and care

the flock

- flock = little flock
 - Faithfully shepherd those within your care no matter how small or humble.

Genesis 48:15

And he blessed Joseph and said, "The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, the God who has been my shepherd all my life long to this day,

Psalms 23:1

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

Psalms 100:3

Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

John 10:14

I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me,

Matthew 9:36

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

of God that is among you

- Not the shepherd's flock or the elder's flock but God's.

Hebrews 13:17

Obey 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.

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.

- God purchased His flock by the blood of His own Son.
 - How precious is this flock!

exercising oversight,

- Definition = overlook = watch over
 - See the whole church that is seeing attacks and difficulties that requires shepherds to have wisdom and discernment how to respond and lead.

How lead?

not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you;

- People choose to lead for the right reasons and for the right season (otherwise, one may freely decline so as to attend to family)
- Because it is God's will, God is faithful and will provide what you need as you lead and shepherd.

not for shameful gain, but eagerly;

- People's motives to fulfill God's calling is not for self interest (what you are getting out of it).

Colossians 3:23-24

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.

- Leading is out of care and love.
- Leadership is not out of authority and force but rather out of the examples of their lives.

III. ETERNITY

1 Peter 5:4

And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

- Have hope as look to eternal rewards from God.

Colossians 3:24

knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

Matthew 25:23

His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'

Question:

What is your motive in leading or influencing those around you?

What is your heart in serving/ministering?

2 Timothy 4:6-8

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

Revelation 22:20

He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

- Question: Do you look forward to the return of Christ?