

## 1 Peter 5:1-4 Shepherds, Sheep and Jesus

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: 2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; 3 nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; 4 and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

**Do you know that the Bible calls us Sheep – likens us to Sheep**

A) Psalm 100, "We are the sheep of his pasture, we are the people of his hand."

B) Not really a compliment – Sheep are very needy creatures

C) Ever hear of a football team having sheep as their Mascot – Remember we used to have a team here in SD –

1) imagine the San Diego Sheep – no they were the San Diego traitors – I mean Chargers

**D) Football teams that having animal names are Chicago Bears, the Detroit Lions / LA Rams –**

1) Jacksonville Jaguars/ATL Falcons – Philly Eagles

E) Those are all strong animals majestic animals – the opposite of Sheep

**And when it comes to protecting your personal property, have any of you ever owned a guard sheep?**

A) Have you ever seen a sign: "Beware of lamb." No, because they're docile, timid creatures.

B) Not only are they timid, they require care.

1) sheep get lost easily, they do not navigate well, they do not find their way on their own.

C) They're not like dogs or pigeons, they'll go back to where they came from,

1) Not sheep – when lost / they are lost - sheep require a shepherd.

**That is what Peter talks about here in Ch. 5 – He is a Pastor/ a shepherd, writing to fellow Shepherds.**

A) What does that have to do with me – I am not a Pastor – well you are in some ways a Shepherd

B) Look at the **word in v.3 entrusted** – We have all been entrusted with something by the Lord

1) KJV God's heritage – You have a heritage –

C) Are you a Parent? - You have been entrusted with kids that God is calling you to Shepherd – to take care of

D) Teach a Children's ministry Class – entrusted to you

1) Home group leader – Wednesday night leader – Entrusted / Friendships entrusted

**Yes this passage written to Pastors – elders – has application to all of us**

A) Keep that in mind as we study it today

B) Before we unpack these 4 verses – there is something on my heart that I want to share today

1) Been thinking about this for a while now – felt led to share it today

C) 2020 was a tough year for all of us – but it was an extra tough year for leaders and for Pastors in particular.

Thom Rainer former President and CEO of Lifeway Christian Research wrote on August 31<sup>st</sup> of 2020 "Please hear me clearly. The vast majority of pastors with whom our team communicates are saying they are considering quitting their churches. It's a trend I have not seen in my lifetime. Some are just weeks away from making an announcement."

According to the research firm Barna Group they found that 29% of Protestant Pastors said they had given "real, serious consideration to quitting being in full-time ministry within the last year."

Kerri Parker, executive director of the Wisconsin Council of Churches, whose member organizations include about 2,000 pastors - Last summer, the council surveyed Pastors in their council and found that about a quarter or 500 said they were considering retiring or leaving the pastorate due to the stresses of ministry during 2020.

### **Why was 2020 an extra hard year for Pastors?**

**A) It was a lose-lose situation – Huge Storm and no matter what decision you made – there was someone who wasn't going to like it.**

**B) I can Honestly say that was the hardest year I have ever been through as a pastor –  
1) especially the first 5 months**

**C) The fact that my dad died 3 weeks before the COVID storm hit – made it extra hard  
1) I literally felt like I didn't even have time to grieve – jumped into – How do we navigate this storm mode**

**D) Not sharing this to get sympathy – oh poor pastor Rob – not at all – not the point**

### **I wanted to share this with you – to say thank you!**

**A) In the midst of the storm – I know that many of you were praying for us – thank you – we needed it – appreciate it**

**B) I feel grateful for the way you stood by us – even when you didn't agree with a decision that was made  
1) You trusted that our leadership team was seeking the Lord –**

### **C) That we were doing our best – and you stood by us and with us – THAT HUGE FOR US**

**1) I just wanted you to know that I myself and our other leaders – appreciate that**

### **D) I would be the first to say that we could have done some things differently – Hindsight is always 2020 –**

**1) but we did what we thought was best – and what and how we felt the Lord was leading –**

**2) Really appreciate your love and support**

### **E) I just wanted to say from the bottom of my heart – THANK YOU church**

**1) It has been a real blessing.**

### **Jump into our text- Notice first of all Peter uses three words in our text to describe the role of a Pastor.**

**A) First word is the word Elder V.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:**

**B) He writes to elders, himself being an elder. That word is the Greek word presbuteros.**

**1) It refers to somebody who is mature, often older, wiser.**

**C) We could say that Elder describes the man – someone who is mature in the Lord and in the word**

### **He also uses the word Overseer in v.2 – He speaks of serving as overseers,**

**A) This is a different word, episkopos. We get the word "episcopal" from that, a bishop, an overseer.**

### **B) Episkopos describes the Ministry – to be an overseer of the flock – to watch over the flock**

**1) Our Elders here watch – guard and protect – keep a sense for the pulse of the flock – what is God doing**

### **The 3<sup>rd</sup> word is the word Shepherd**

**A) Shepherd is poimaino in the Greek = to feed**

**B) We get our English word Pastor from it – this describes the Method –**

**C) Jesus gave Peter a 2 fold commission in John 21 – Feed my sheep and tend my lambs**

**1) Tend = to care for.**

**D) Elder = The Man – mature in the Lord – The Ministry – oversee, watch over and protect -**

**1) The Method – Feed and to tend**

### **Note 5 insights that Peter gives us about Shepherds**

**A) #1 A Shepherd is also a sheep – (Fellow Elder – fellow shepherd) And - V.4 Peter calls Jesus the Chief Shepherd**

### **B) We are all HIS SHEEP!**

**C) There are several reasons this is important is –**

**1) Before you can lead others/ you have to first be being led by Jesus.**

### **D) Before you can give to others – you have to be receiving**

**1) What you give is going to be FROM the outflow of what you are receiving**

**E) Been rightfully said: As the shepherd goes, so go the sheep. As the shepherd grows, so grow the sheep.**

1) If the shepherd is growing, sheep are growing.

2) If the shepherd is stagnating, the sheep will be stagnating.

## **#2 The Ministry of the Shepherd V.2 – Shepherd the flock of God that is among you**

**A) Shepherd = to feed and to tend**

**B) We are to feed those entrusted to us – not with our opinions or practical insights but w/ the word of God**

1) People looking for practical tips, insights will go to Tony Robbins – or some other self help coach

**C) But people desiring to grow in their relationship with God – know their purpose in God's Kingdom**

**1) THEY NEED TO BE FED THE WORD OF GOD**

**One of the primary callings of a shepherd is to feed sheep the word of God**

**A) Here are CV we believe the best way to do that is by teaching chapter by chapter – verse by verse through whole books of the Bible**

**B) That is what we do about 90% of the time here – working through books of the Bible**

**1) WED – NT - To Study God's word in Context – best way to grow!**

**Paul told young Pastor Timothy - 15 Be diligent to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who doesn't need to be ashamed, correctly teaching the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15**

**A) The KJV – study to show yourselves approved – be a student of the word of God.**

**B) Rightly dividing the word – in order to impart it to others.**

**1) Study hard.**

I've always loved the story of the Native American older man, who went to church one Sunday and heard a preacher preach.

It was a Sunday when the preacher didn't study and prepare for the message, so he tried to cover up his lack of preparation by being bombastic and pounding

the pulpit, speaking loudly and running back and forth and putting on a more of a pep rally show.

Now some people were quite entertained and thought he really preached up a storm. That's what they said, **"He preached up a storm."**

When they asked the old Native American gentlemen afterwards what he thought of the sermon – this was his response: **high wind, big thunder, no rain."**

**C) High wind, big thunder, but where's the rain?**

1) Where's the nourishment? - Boy, he preached up a storm, but where's the rain?

**D) This is why God, speaking through Ezekiel the prophet, said, "Prophesy against my shepherds – this was the indictment God had against them –**

**1) They didn't feed the flock of God**

**This is important to God – important to me –**

**A) Take very seriously the calling to teach you the word of God**

**B) We have some great communicators here as part of our Pastor team –**

1) I am challenging them to not just be good communicators – but great expositors

**C) Spiritual chefs cooking up a great meal for the people of God**

**So a Shepherd is to feed the flock of God – but also to Tend = to care for**

**A) In Paul's ministry to the Thessalonians – he likened his ministry to a mother nursing her child**

**B) Is there not a more tender and gentle and beautiful picture of the of caring for the souls of others than that?**

**C) A Mother nursing her child**

**D) We are to tend to the needs and well-being of those the Lord has entrusted into our care –**

**1) with the grace patience and tenderness of a MOM!**

**E) The Ministry: Feed and Tend**

## **#3 The Shepherds Motive V.2b**

2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly;

A) A Shepherd of any kind is to be a **Willing Servant**

B) It is a great privilege to be have God entrust a life or lives into your care

C) It is a calling – you willingly respond to - should never be forced or simply responding to a need.

D) Can't just be a job!

**Our team here over the years – we have almost always hired from within**

A) Or hired someone who had a connection to our church.

B) We have never – posted on ministry jobs.com – Not a Job – it is a calling

**S0 What has God entrusted into your care? – Privilege – calling**

A) As a parent God has entrusted a life into your care

B) Sunday School teacher – God has entrusted a class

1) Small group leader – a group

C) Privilege to be used in that way to pour into others

**#4 The Shepherds Manner V.3**

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

A) Listen the Flock does not exist for you – you don't get your sense of purpose or identity in what you do

B) Your identity has to come from who you are in Jesus - **Those who find their identity in their calling** – 1) tend to lord it over people – firm grip

C) An overlord tells people what to do –

D) Shepherds lead the flock – they don't drive the flock -

1) ever see a flock of sheep being driven – butcher who drives them

**Husbands / Dads – take note – Not called to be Dictators in the home**

A) But Examples – See you as the servant – **the under rower**

**B) Sad mentality in many Christian homes – Don't do as a do – but do as I say**

1) That just doesn't cut it – not in the Church & not in the home

C) Jesus modeled for us the best kind of leadership – Servant leader – washed feet he set the example

- 1) That is what the Pastor is to be
- 2) That is what a Husband is to be
- 3) That is what fathers & mothers are to be

**#5 The Shepherds Reward V.4**

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

A) This is a beautiful title of Jesus: "the Chief Shepherd." I love that.

B) Jesus called himself the "Good Shepherd."

C) Peter heard that sermon, but here Peter refers to Jesus as the Chief Shepherd

1) Peter says he's the greatest Shepherd, he's the best Shepherd, he's the Chief.

**Now, you'll remember that up to this point Peter is encouraging a suffering group of people, right?**

A) And one of the ways he encourages them is he says, "Hold on.

B) It's tough now, but later on when Jesus comes back, you're going to get a reward.

**C) The best is yet to come. Look toward the future. Look toward the goal of God's glory."**

D) Paul said: We are all stewards of something – God has entrusted into our care our hands

1) Paul said - **A steward is to be found faithful**

E) Jesus is one who determines Faithfulness

**Listen in the end you will not stand before any group of your peers, you will stand before one, the Chief Shepherd.**

A) He is going to reward you for one thing – being faithful for what he has entrusted into your hands

B) Peter says – **he is going to give you a crown of glory that doesn't fade away.**

C) This would have extra special meaning for those reading this is Peter's day.

**You see they were very familiar with the Olympic games that took place**

A) And when an Athlete won their event they were rewarded with a laurel wreath or crown of leaves and flowers on your head

B) Picture this: You put all of that effort and training to win a race for a **salad on your head.** That's it.

**Bb) Problem with that Laurel wreath was it only lasted a few days and then it fades away.**

C) But Peter says to us – **if you are faithful to run this race well**

1) and be faithful with what God has entrusted to you

D) God will give you a crown that will never fade away, ever."

**But People labor all the time for different kinds of crowns.**

A) Some will labor for a crown of fame and popularity,

B) Others will labor for a crown of personal empire building,

1) others will labor for a crown of people's applause.

C) People are fickle – can't please everyone – always a critic

I read a story about an old shepherd. An old man who was walking from village to village with a young boy and a donkey and a flock of sheep trailing behind.

He came to the first village and he was walking next to the donkey. And the people of that **village called**

**him a fool,** because when he could be riding, he was walking.

So, to please the people he got up on the donkey and he rode.

He went to the second village and the people of that village said **that he was cruel** because he was letting a young child walk while he was riding the donkey.

**So, to please the people he got off the donkey and put the young child on the donkey. And they went to the next village.**

When they got to the next village they said that the boy was lazy and the old man was helping the young boy be lazy by letting him ride the donkey, while he was walking. **"They should both be riding together."**

**So, to please the people the old man and the young boy were riding the donkey to the next village.**

When they got to the next village, the people of that village cried, **"Cruelty to donkeys!** His donkey is supporting the weight of two human beings. **It's horrible."**

Well the last time they saw the old man he was walking down the road **carrying the donkey to the next village** to see what they would say.

**You get my point. Any kind of work, including ministry, especially, should be done to please the Chief Shepherd.**

A) We are serving for an audience of one –

Ephesians 6, **"Not with eyeservice, nor as men-pleasers, but as willing servants of Jesus, doing the will of God from the heart."**

**B) Do that and one day – you will hear the Chief Shepherd say: "Well done, good and faithful servant." That's what you want to hear.**

C) As we close today – The Bible also says this about us as Sheep

**All we like Sheep have gone astray, we have all gone our own way**

**A)In other words we made a decision to reject God as our shepherd to do our own thing – our way.**

**B)But Jesus is the Good shepherd who runs after the lost sheep – Pursuing heart – He loves you.**

**C)He is the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep – paid the price for your sins –**

**1)Bring you back into the flock of God**

**He invites you to follow Him – let him be your Shepherd – no Neutral ground**

**A)For me or against me**

**B)Open your heart to Him today – Decision to turn from sin – Follow Jesus**