

“SHEPHERDS AND SHEEP”

1 Peter 5:1-11

Open - story

Dr. Andrew Bonar told D.L Moody the following story of life in the Highlands of Scotland. A sheep would often wander off into the rocks and get into places that they couldn't get out of. The grass on these mountains is very sweet and the sheep like it, and they will jump down ten or twelve feet, and then they can't jump back again, and the shepherd hears them bleating in distress. They may be there for days, until they have eaten all the grass. The shepherd will wait until they are so faint they cannot stand, and then they will put a rope around him, and he will go over and pull that sheep up out of the jaws of death. "Why don't they go down there when the sheep first gets there?" I asked. "Ah!" He said, "they are so very foolish they would dash right over the precipice and be killed if they did!" And that is the way with people; they won't go back to God till they have suffered, and some until they have lost everything. If you are a wanderer I tell you that the Good Shepherd will bring you back the moment you have given up trying to save yourself and are willing to let Him save you His own way.

Connect

These people have suffered, scattered, tempted to taste sweet grass even though they should not. Peter, after telling them to endure suffering, staying holy, doing good...NOW sets before them a Godly truth for them to follow. Shepherds and Sheep. The need for Shepherds and the needs of sheep. He lays before them a system for them to follow - it will keep them accountable, rally them, untie them, help some from wandering from God = still vital today

Effective Shepherding is a struggle for every church. HRBC, Deacons Lists, struggle, natural connections, struggle, Jan. 2016 Deacons - committed "to be a shepherd to every church family/individual" - by next Sunday letter in your mail slots. God's Timing - months ago, series, Jan Deacons, this week S & S

Peter reminds the churches two important roles

5:1 - ELDER = “shepherd”, “overseer”, “elder”, position not just “older people” our “deacon” of the church, (Functionally biblical but Bible "Elders" are our "Deacons") Shepherd, overseer = Pastor, deacon, elder

3 Aspects of Shepherding

MINISTRIES OF THE SHEPHERD (vs. 1-2)

- “shepherd the sheep” = “tend”, “care for”
Feed, care, lead, guide, protect
- // John 21:16 – Jesus’ questions to Peter - "love me? Feed lambs, Care for sheep, Feed sheep"

Illustr. Leadership Magazine - "not #'s but health"

- Shepherds are looking out for the health of our people!

MOTIVE OF THE SHEPHERD (vs. 2-3)

- Willingness - high calling (1 Timothy 3:1),
Selflessness – not after gain (1 Timothy 3:3),
some in early church were paid
- Gentleness – not forceful (Mark 10:42)
= temptations for leadership – pray!
- Pray for them
-

METHOD OF THE SHEPHERD (vs.3)

- To be an Example that obeys God (Ephesians 5:1) *5¹ Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children² and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. and follows Jesus (1 Peter 2:21) "But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God.²¹ To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps."*

Example worthy of imitating, set the bar high!

1 Cor. 11:1 - "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ."

1 Cor. 4:16 - "Therefore I urge you to imitate me."

Philippians 3:17 - "Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do."

1 Thessalonians 1:6 - "You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit."

- Shepherd is to care for, serve, sacrifice, stay close to God as their Chief Shepherd (4), pray for us, be an example for us

And while you think "Hey if I am not a Shepherd, I got off easy" ...think again! Peter then instructs the rest of us

“SHEEP” = ALL OTHERS (vs. 5-11)

“younger ones” = (male & female), “submit” (vs.5)

maybe the rebellious times? energy?

be submissive to Shepherds - learn from them, experience, wisdom, mentoring...very valuable

“all of you” (vs. 5) - dual focus

1. On God – “clothe selves with humility to each other, God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble”

How? Humble before His mighty hand (6)

Cast burdens upon Him (7)

"I can't do it alone"

- Spiritual Truth - *the humble trust in God*

Q. How mighty is God to us?

Q. Will we humble ourselves before Him?

Illustration - balloon stomp, grade 4, big kid won, last balloon... mentally challenged class, instructions? "go" odd thing happened. held balloons for each other, last balloon - "Yay" when all done. individual vs.

group task. Peter has group tasking in mind. Humble to each other and before God

2. On a spiritual battle

“be self controlled and alert” (5:8)

"Roaring lion" - fear? despair? recognition?

= spiritual watchfulness – esp. in struggle

“resist the devil with firm faith” (vs.9)

“and he will flee” b/c God will intervene

Q. Sensed the battle around you? Your need for God's mighty hand to help you? Overwhelmed? Devil knocking? "No" - peace!

- Sheep, we are to trust in the Chief Shepherd. We are to submit ourselves to the leadership of our Shepherds - God's representatives. Walk humbly with God and each other. Be aware of the battle and resist the tempter.

Reward

Shepherd = eternal crown of glory from Chief

Shepherd - imagine being before God and having Him place a crown upon your head!

Sheep = restored, Strong, Firm Steadfast = Job 1:21

Oxen and donkeys, Sheep, Camels, servants, Family destroyed...
He said, 'Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there; the Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.' - *I can't do this without you God*

Job 42:12-13 - The LORD blessed the latter part of Job's life more than the former part. He had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen and a thousand donkeys. ¹³ And he also had seven sons and three daughters.- God restores, strengthens, develops endurance in us

Q. Suffering? Help? Pray for you/encourage you? Good news? "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want"

God has put in place this wonderful system to help us - Shepherds and Sheep.