

5. What does it mean that Jesus is the Chief Shepherd (5:4)? Perhaps you might consider Isa. 40:11; Zech. 13:7; John 10:2-5, 11-16).

6. This passage mentions “the crown of glory” (5:4). To what does this refer? How does a Christian merit such a reward?

7. In what two or three ways will you encourage your elders this week and demonstrate support for their ministry?

Let's Pray:

For our missionaries:

Enrique and Becky Fernandez - EFCA, Guatemala

Pray for Enrique and Becky Fernandez and their on-line training programs for pastors.

Pray for your elders and their families by name. Ask God to protect their hearts and motivations.

Sermon Notes

“Shepherding Suffering Sheep”

1 Peter 5:1-5

December 6, 2015

Introduction:

1. Shepherding Suffering Sheep (5:1-2a).

2. Motivations (5:2b-3).

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

3. Reward (5:4).

4. Response (5:5)

Conclusion:

Growth Group Homework

For the week of 12-06-15

Questions adapted from 1 Peter: Life Change Series, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1986, pp. 105-116; Warren W. Wiersbe, Be Hopeful, Victor Books, Wheaton, IL, 1982, p. 154; John MacArthur, 1 & 2 Peter: Courage in Times of Trouble, Thomas Nelson, Nashville, TN, 2007, pp. 51-56; James Galvin, ed., et al., New Testament Lesson Maker, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1992, pp. 316.

Getting Started:

1. Think of a Christian leader (that is, a pastor, youth director, Sunday-school teacher, etc.) who has had a lasting impact on your life. What outstanding qualities did they possess? How did God use them in your life?

Digging Deeper:

2. READ: 1 Peter 4:19 – 5:5. How does Peter describe himself in 5:1?

The leader of the apostles could certainly have chosen a grander way to identify himself than he did in 5:1. Why do you suppose Peter calls himself “fellow ...”? What motives and character traits does this choice suggest?

3. The image of the community’s leaders as its shepherds came to Judaism and Christianity through the Old Testament prophets (Jeremiah 3:15; 10:21; Ezekiel 34:2-16). The tasks of a Near Eastern shepherd were:
 - a. to *watch* for enemies trying to attack the sheep,
 - b. to *defend* the sheep from attackers,
 - c. to *guide* the sheep to food, water, and shelter,
 - d. to *heal* wounded and sick sheep,
 - e. to *find* and *save* lost or trapped sheep, and
 - f. to *love* them, sharing their lives and so earning their trust.

Draw analogies from the above list to what a person in spiritual authority should do for those he leads.

4. Although this passage is directed at church leadership, principles can be derived for any who have been given the task of looking after and encouraging the spiritual growth of others. What non-elder/pastor roles might this apply to?

According to Peter, what are three wrong motivations for serving in spiritual leadership in the church? What positive alternatives does he offer?

Are you struggling with any of these wrong motivations? If so, how?