



1 Peter

The Journey Home

Shepherd the Flock

1 Peter 5:1-4

Message #12 of 13 – S692

Sermon given on June 12, 2016



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

Shepherd the Flock

1 Peter 5:1-4

Opening Comments

- Turn to **1 Peter 5**
- Today, we continue our series through the first letter from Peter – **The Journey Home**
- As soon as the church started to grow and spread there was a need for leadership
- In the early days of the church, the Christian church resembled a Jewish synagogue in its organization
- That's because the early church was comprised almost exclusively of Jews who had come to know Jesus Christ as their Messiah and personal Savior
- As Paul went about starting churches in the Gentile world, he also gave them direction about how to organize the church
- And one of the things that he did was appoint leaders of the new churches **Acts 14:23**

So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

- The Bible tells us that churches are supposed to be organized
- Peter is going to address the leaders of the church
- In the last message he said **1 Peter 4:17**

For the time *has come* for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if *it begins* with us first, what will *be* the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?

- If judgment begins 'at the house of God', or the church, then the church needs to make sure it is in order
- And for that to happen, the leaders of the church need to doing what is right
- You might be here, and thinking, I am not a leader, how does this apply to me
- Here's how – this is what you should expect from the leaders of the church
- There are plenty of so-called spiritual leaders

- If you follow the wrong one, he is going to lead you to the wrong place
- But how do you know which ones you should be following?
- Peter will give us some clues today
- If you are able and willing to do so, please stand as we read today's text as a sign of reverence for God's Word
- Read **1 Peter 5:1-4**
- **Pray**

Teaching

- **Shepherd the Flock**
- Peter begins with his qualifications to be speaking on this topic – these are Peter's credentials
- **1 Peter 5:1**
- 'To the elders who are among you I exhort'
- This is an exhortation – it is not a command
- An exhortation is an earnest appeal or encouragement
- 'I who am a fellow elder'
- In 1:1 Peter identified himself as an apostle – a divinely appointed representative of Christ
- But here he is saying that he is on the same level as they are
- Peter understood Paul when he wrote **Galatians 3:28**
There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.
- When it comes to God and His kingdom all humans are on the same level
- That doesn't nullify the roles that we fill in this life
- Peter was an apostle, but that was his role in the kingdom, it didn't make him better
- This something to watch for in a leader – one who doesn't think he is better than the people he is leading
- 'witness of the sufferings' – Peter was right there when they beat and crucified Jesus
- 'partaker of the glory' could refer to Mount of Transfiguration, but also to the resurrection and ascension

- In the next three verses Peter is going to give us four **Attributes of a Godly Shepherd**
 - **1 Peter 5:2a**
 - Speaking to the elders Peter says ‘Shepherd the flock of God’
 - Notice first who the flock belongs to – it belongs to God
 - The church belongs to God
 - Notice also, Peter doesn’t tell them to lead the flock of God
 - Tells them to shepherd the flock
 - This involves much more than leading
 - In addition to leading, includes guarding, providing, tending hurts and wounds, and helping them to be productive
 - The first attribute of a godly shepherd – he is **Engaged**
 - A godly shepherd does what he can to stay connected to the flock of God
 - A godly shepherd is engaged with the flock
 - The second attribute of a godly shepherd has to do with his motivation – He is **Eager**
 - **1 Peter 5:2b**
 - Serving God for what we are going to get out of it is an ungodly motivation
 - Doing it for money, recognition, or some other worldly reason will result in a loss of rewards when we stand before God
 - Serving God by serving His people out of a sense of duty or obligation is not really serving at all
 - Instead, a godly shepherd is willing and eager to serve God’s flock
 - And his primary motivation is love – first for God and then for God’s people **John 13:34-35**
- A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.**
- In reality you can’t love God if you aren’t actively loving God’s people
 - One of the ways I show God that I love Him is by loving the flock of God as a shepherd to His people
 - A godly shepherd is eager to serve God’s people

- A godly shepherd is engaged and eager
 - **1 Peter 5:3**
 - Here Peter tells his readers, and us, that a godly shepherd leads by modeling, not by commanding
 - The third attribute of a godly shepherd is – He is an **Example**
 - This is exactly what Paul told Timothy the pastor or shepherd of the church of Ephesus **1 Timothy 4:12**
- Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.**
- To be an example I need to be what I am telling you to be
 - As a shepherd I am called to live a life that others could follow to God
 - A godly shepherd is a good example to the flock
 - A godly shepherd is engaged, eager, and an example
 - **1 Peter 5:4**
 - Jesus is the Great Shepherd – referred as Shepherd throughout Bible
 - Turn to **John 10**
 - Ezekiel 34 – True Shepherd - seeks His sheep
 - Hebrews 13 – Great shepherd – lives for the sheep
 - Here in John 10 – the Good Shepherd
 - **John 10:11-16**
 - Turn back to **1 Peter 5**
 - And here in 1 Peter Jesus is the Great Shepherd who is coming back for His flock
 - There are other crowns mentioned in the Bible
 - Crown of life, crown of righteousness
 - But this crown seems to be reserved for godly shepherds of the flock
 - The fourth and final attribute of a godly shepherd is – He is **Expectant**
 - First the godly shepherd is expecting Jesus, the Great Shepherd to come back
 - And he is not just expecting it, he is ready, and he is helping others to get ready
 - And second the godly shepherd is expecting a reward for his faithful service

- I don't look for a reward in this life – Jesus is coming and His reward is with Him
- All the rewards in this life are temporary **1 Corinthians 9:24-25**
Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain *it*. And everyone who competes *for the prize* is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a perishable crown, but we *for an imperishable crown*.
- A godly shepherd is engaged with the flock, he is eager to serve God's people, he is living a godly example for the flock of God to follow, and He is expecting Jesus to come back to claim His flock and reward him for his labors
- That is the kind of leader you should be looking for
- The question is, what should you do once you find him?
- If you find a godly shepherd who is following Jesus to the best of his ability, what should you do?
- The answer is found in the terms we have been using
- The spiritual leaders are called shepherds and the people are God's flock
- It is the role of the shepherd to lead and for the flock to follow the shepherd
- You find yourself a godly shepherd who is following the Good Shepherd Jesus and follow him
- Writer of Hebrews suggested how and why **Hebrews 13:17 NASB**
Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.
- Want to close with one last thought – turn to **Psalm 23**
- Psalm 23 was written by King David
- Anyone remember what David was before he was a king – shepherd
- **Psalm 23**
- The first line of that psalm, 'The Lord is my shepherd'
- Jesus is the true shepherd, the good shepherd, the great shepherd, and the chief shepherd
- As important as those titles, the one that is most precious to me is Jesus is my shepherd

- Before we partake of Communion – want you to make sure that Jesus is your shepherd
- John 10 says that the Good Shepherd laid down His life for the sheep
- Do you know that Jesus died for you sins
- And if you will accept that and repent from your sins, and confess that you need Him to save you, the Bible promises that He will forgive you and save
- Then Jesus will be your shepherd and the hope and promises of Psalm 23 will be yours
- Amen–**Pray**