

Help for the Suffering: Spiritual Leadership

I Peter 5:1-14 / March 20, 2021

1) PETER (5:1)

Therefore I,

- **Present:** your **fellow elder** and
- **Past:** a **witness** of the sufferings of Christ, and
- **Future:** also a **sharer** of the glory that is going to be revealed,

2) ELDERS (5:2-4)

- **Role**
exhort the elders among you: shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight

Abraham

Then Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that was with him. And Lot went with him to the Negev. **Now Abram was very wealthy in livestock, in silver, and in gold.** And he went according to his journey from the Negev, then to Bethel, to the place where his tent was at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai, to the place where he had made an altar at the beginning. And Abram called on the name of Yahweh there. And Lot, who went with Abram, also had herds and tents. **And the land could not support them so as to live together,** because their possessions were so many that they were not able to live together. (Genesis 13:1-6, Lexham English Bible)

Moses

And Moses was a shepherd with the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the west of the desert, and he came to the mountain of God, to Horeb. And the angel of Yahweh appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush, and he looked, and there was the bush burning with fire, but the bush was not being consumed. (Exodus 3:1-2, Lexham English Bible)

David

Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all the young men here?" And he said, "**The youngest still remains, but look, he is shepherding the flock.**" And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we cannot sit down until he comes here." So he sent and brought him. Now he was ruddy with beautiful eyes and of handsome appearance. And Yahweh said, "Arise, anoint him, for this is he." **So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. Then the Spirit of Yahweh rushed upon David from that day on.** Then Samuel got up and went to Ramah. (I Samuel 16:11-13, Lexham English Bible)

Jesus:

"I am the good shepherd.

- The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.
- The hired hand, who is not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, sees the wolf approaching and abandons the sheep and runs away—and the wolf seizes them and scatters them—because he is a hired hand and he is not concerned about the sheep.

"I am the good shepherd,

- and I know my own, and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father, and
- I lay down my life for the sheep.
- And I have other sheep which are not from this fold. I must bring these also, and they will hear my voice, and they will become one flock—one shepherd.
- Because of this the Father loves me, because I lay down my life so that I may take possession of it again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down voluntarily.
- I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take possession of it again. This commandment I received from my Father." (John 10:11-18, Lexham English Bible)

Peter

- Now when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." He said to him, "**Feed my lambs!**"
- He said to him again a second time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." He said to him, "**Shepherd my sheep!**"

- He said to him a third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was distressed because he said to him a third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything! You know that I love you!” Jesus said to him, “**Feed my sheep!**” (John 21:15-19, Lexham English Bible)

- **Responsibilities**

1. not by compulsion but willingly, in accordance with God, and
2. not greedily (morally shameful + profitable gain) but eagerly, and (eagerness to give to others without calculation)
3. not as lording it over those under your care, but being examples for the flock.

Evil Shepherds: Jeremiah

EVIL SHEPHERDS: “Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the flock of my pasture,” declares Yahweh.

Therefore thus says Yahweh, the God of Israel concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people, “You yourselves have scattered my flock, and you have driven them away, and you do not attend to them.

JUDGEMENT: Look, I will punish you for the evil of your deeds,” declares Yahweh.

DELIVERANCE: “Then I myself will gather together the remnant of my flock from all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their grazing place, and they will be fruitful, and they will become numerous. And I will raise up over them shepherds, and they will shepherd them, and they will no longer fear, and they will not be dismayed, and they will not be missing,” declares Yahweh. (Jeremiah 23:1-4, Lexham English Bible)

Evil Shepherds: Ezekiel

EVIL SHEPHERDS: And the word of Yahweh came to me, saying, “Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and you must say to them, to the shepherds, ‘Thus says the Lord Yahweh:

- “Woe to the shepherds of Israel who were feeding themselves! Must not the shepherds feed the flock?
- The fat you eat, and you clothe yourself with the wool; the well-nourished animals you slaughter, but you do not feed the flock.
- The weak you have not strengthened, and the sick you have not healed, and with respect to the hurt you have not bound them up, and you have not brought back the scattered, and you have not sought the lost, but rather you ruled over them with force and with ruthlessness.
- And they were scattered without a shepherd, and they were as food for all the animals of the field when they were scattered. My flock went astray upon all of the mountains and on every high hill, and so upon all the surface of the world my flock were scattered, and there was no one seeking them, and there was no one searching for them.”

JUDGMENT: Therefore, hear, O shepherds, the word of Yahweh: “As I live,” declares the Lord Yahweh, “Surely because my flock have become as plunder, and my flock became as food to all the animals of the field, since there was not a shepherd, since my shepherds have not sought my flock, but the shepherds fed themselves, and they fed not my flock,” therefore, O shepherds, hear the word of Yahweh, 1’Thus says the Lord Yahweh: “Look! I am against the shepherds, and I will seek my flock from their hand, and I will put an end to them from shepherding flocks, and the shepherds will no longer feed themselves, and

DELIVERANCE: I will deliver my flocks from their mouth, so that they will not be as food for them.” (Ezekiel 34:1-10, Lexham English Bible)

- **Reward**

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

Jesus, the Shepherd King

“Look, days are coming,” declares Yahweh, / “when I will raise up for David a righteous branch, and he will reign as king, and he will achieve success, / and he will do justice and righteousness in the land.

In his days Judah will be saved, / and Israel will dwell in safety,

and this is his name by which he will be called: / ‘Yahweh is our righteousness.’

“Therefore look, days are coming,” declares Yahweh, “when they will no longer say, ‘As Yahweh lives, who led up the Israelites from the land of Egypt,’ but ‘As Yahweh lives, who led up, and who brought the offspring of the house of Israel from the land of the north and from all the lands where he had driven them.’ Then they will live in their land.” (Jeremiah 23:5-8, Lexham English Bible)

3) CHURCH (5:5-10)

In the same way,

- **Submit**
younger men, be subject to the elders, and
- **Be Humble**
all of you clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

Pride of the Apostles

JAMES AND JOHN: Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came up to him with her sons, and kneeling down she asked something from him. And he said to her, "What do you want?" She said to him, "Say that these two sons of mine may sit one at your right hand and one at your left in your kingdom." But Jesus answered and said, "You do not know what you are asking! Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?" They said to him, "We are able." He said to them, "You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left is not mine to grant, but is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father."

TEN OTHER APOSTLES: **And when the ten heard this, they were indignant concerning the two brothers.** But Jesus called them to himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those in high positions exercise authority over them. It will not be like this among you! But whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be most prominent among you must be your slave— just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Matthew 20:20-28, Lexham English Bible)

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you at the right time, casting all your cares on him, because he cares for you.

Humility of Bartimaeus

BARTIMAEUS: And as they were going out of Jericho, a large crowd followed him. And behold, there were two blind men sitting beside the road. When they heard that Jesus was passing by, they called out, saying, "Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!" And the crowd rebuked them so that they would be quiet. But they called out all the more, saying, "Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!" And Jesus stopped, called them, and said, "What do you want me to do for you?" They said to him, "Lord, that our eyes be opened!" And having compassion, Jesus touched their eyes, and immediately they received their sight and followed him. (Matthew 20:29-33, Lexham English Bible)

- **Be Sober**
Be sober; be on the alert. Your adversary the devil walks around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

Peter and Satan

From that time on Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised on the third day. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, God forbid, Lord! This will never happen to you!" But he turned around and said to Peter, "**Get behind me, Satan! You are a cause for stumbling to me, because you are not intent on the things of God, but the things of people!**" (Matthew 16:21-23, Lexham English Bible)

"**Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail.** And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers." Peter said to him, "Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death." Jesus said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me." (Luke 22:31-34, Lexham English Bible)

- **Oppose Satan**
Resist him, steadfast in your faith, because you know the same kinds of sufferings are being accomplished by your community of believers in the world.

Ananias vs Barnabas

ANANIAS: Now a certain man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, and he kept back for himself some of the proceeds, and his wife was aware of it. And he brought a certain part and placed it at the feet of the apostles. But Peter said, **“Ananias, for what reason has Satan filled your heart, that you lied to the Holy Spirit and kept back for yourself some of the proceeds of the piece of land? When it remained to you, did it not remain yours? And when it was sold, was it at your disposal? How is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to people, but to God!”** (Acts 5:1-4, Lexham English Bible)

BARNABAS: For there was not even anyone needy among them, because all those who were owners of plots of land or houses were selling them and bringing the proceeds of the things that were sold and placing them at the feet of the apostles. And it was being distributed to each as anyone had need. So Joseph, who was called Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated “son of encouragement”), a Levite of Cyprus by nationality, sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and placed it at the feet of the apostles. (Acts 4:34-37, Lexham English Bible)

- **Suffer for Christ**

And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered for a short time, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

Jesus Predicts Peter’s Suffering

Truly, truly I say to you, when you were young, you tied your clothes around yourself and walked wherever you wanted. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will tie you up and carry you where you do not want to go. (Now he said this to indicate by what kind of death he would glorify God.) And after he had said this, he said to him, “Follow me!”

Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them (who also leaned back on his chest at the dinner and said, “Lord, who is the one betraying you?”) So when he saw this one, Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, but what about this one?” Jesus said to him, “If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!” So this saying went out to the brothers that that disciple would not die. But Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but “If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you?” (John 21:18-23, Lexham English Bible)

4) CO-WORKERS (5:12-13)

- Through Silvanus, the faithful brother (as I consider him), I have written to you briefly to encourage you and to attest that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it.
- She who is in Babylon, chosen the same as you, greets you, and
- so does my son Mark.
- Greet one another with a loving kiss. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.