

The Shepherd's Call

17 - 1 Peter: A New World & A New Way
Church on the Park | Sunday, 20 JAN 2013

Text: 1 Peter 5:1-4 | **Sub-Texts:** John 21:15-19; John 10:1-18; Jer. 3:15

Intro: Today, I'm preaching to myself. This is a passage mainly for shepherds and that's what the word 'pastor' means. But it's not just for me. If Jesus is the Chief Shepherd, and we are called to be like him, all of us must grow to have the Shepherd's heart.

The Context: Don't be surprised by the fiery trials you are experiencing—they are part of the Christian life. "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him from them all" (Psa. 34:19). In light of the fiery trials Christians go through they need shepherds. And here Peter is exhorting his fellow elders to shepherd the flock, just like Jesus exhorted Peter after Jesus' resurrection. (John 21)

1) The Shepherd's call is to care for your soul. (1 Peter 5:1-2)

- What is a pastor? A pastor/shepherd is someone who is called by God to spiritual **care** for God's people and **watch** over their souls. (cf. Jer. 3:15)
- Just as a physician is concerned about your physical health, a pastor is concerned about the **well-being** of your **soul**.
 - True spiritual care enables you to care for others and yourself—it does not leave you totally reliant on somebody for all your spiritual needs.
 - lead, care, feed, clean, protect, watch over
- This passage combats the anti-pastor sentiment that recently appeared in the wider-Christian community over the last two decades. ("The Bible never mentions pastors or shepherds. When it does, it does so infrequently, and nobody knows what it means." These statements are plainly not true.)
- The story of my **Honor's Essay** on Effective Leadership. My first chapter was on **CARE**. If I didn't get credit for my essay I would not be here in Australia.
- Peter is giving the same exhortation to the elders as Jesus gave to him (John 21)

2) The Scripture teaches us specifically how shepherds are to care for God's flock. (1 Peter 5:2-3)

- 1) **Willingly**. Not because you have to, but willingly. 2) **Eagerly and with Readiness**. Not for gain, not as a career path. For God's glory, not your own. With passion and eagerness 3) **Authentically**. Not overbearingly, respecting people's space, enabling them to make their own decisions. **As a living example** - lead by example
- CARE
 - C - **Compassion** (Mark 6:34; Matt. 9:35-38)
 - The Shepherd's rod and staff (Acts 6; cf. Jer. 3:15)
 - The Word as their staff - to lead and guide
 - Prayer as their rod - to drive away the enemy and work miracles

- A - **Active Assistance**
 - The pastor is there to assist you in your walk, not to take over your life. He comes alongside you to build you up. He or she is a friend.
- R - **Reliability**
- E - **Encouragement**
 - A word that sustains the weary (Isa. 50:4)
- How does the pastor care for his sheep? **Four Ways:** 1) By **knowing** them (Prov. 27:23-27) 2) By ministering the **Word** to them 3) By **praying** for them 4) By being an **example** to them

3) Earthly shepherds are never to take the place of the Chief Shepherd (1 Peter 5:4)

- Pastors are men and women like everyone else. They may be **holy** but they are **not almighty**.
- We are to never make **idols** of pastors, putting them ahead of Jesus and overly relying on them.
- **Jesus**, is our Chief Shepherd and example (*John 10:1-18).
 - He is the one we are to rely on and go to first
 - He is the **ultimate** shepherd.
 - If your pastor is not in love with Jesus, find another pastor
- A good pastor will always be **leading** you to Jesus and **pointing** to Jesus rather than himself or herself.

Conclusion: The shepherd's call is to care for God's people and cause them to grow. The way shepherds do this is the way Jesus himself did it. But we need to be careful: shepherds should never take the place of the Chief Shepherd, Jesus.

END NOTES

In what way should a shepherd pastor?

- "Not under compulsion" or force. Not because he has to. Not because he is hired to do so. Not reluctantly.
 - His/her motivation must be the call of God and the compassion God has put in his heart for people.
 - He or she is motivated by love
- "willingly" - in other words, with willingness of heart and intentionally. The Greek means intentional
- Shepherding is a great privilege. It's to participate in Christ's own ministry.
- A pastor pastors because they are moved by God to do so—they are doing God's will
- "not pursuing dishonest gain" - This does not just refer to material gain. Of course, according to the Bible pastors should be properly compensated because it honors God's call. "It may also refer to gaining popularity by adulterating the gospel to

attract more people to the congregation, and showing special favors and consideration to the rich and the influential in order to gain personal advantage and profit. It stands in antithesis to *prothúmōs* (4290) which means serving willingly because of the worthiness of the ministry rendered, instead of the gain acquired as a result of the ministry. An *aischrokerdēs* has as his philosophy: "The ministry is my profession; I have to do it because that is my living." The one ministering (*prothúmōs* [4290]) says: "I am in the ministry because I am needed and am going to serve regardless of the compensation."

- ***prothúmōs*** - ready to, willingly, eager and passionately
- "Not lording it over those entrusted to you" - not as a control freak and not meddling in people's affairs. There always needs to be a healthy space between pastor and sheep. There should be a respect of privacy. I should work to empower you to make your own decisions rather than make those decisions for you. The church or pastor does not control you, Jesus does. (not treating people like slaves. not using them to advance myself.)
 - "allotted to you" - God allots the people under your care, not man
- "Proving to be examples to the flock" - We live as examples. As a small picture of

How the early apostles put shepherding into practice (Acts 6).

- The Word was their staff
- Prayer was their rod - to drive away the enemy and work miracles

exhort - *parakaleo* - παρακαλέω *parakaléō*; contracted *parakalṓ*, fut. *parakalésō*, from *pará* (3844), to the side of, and *kaléō* (2564), to call. To aid, help, comfort, encourage. Translated: to comfort, exhort, desire, call for, beseech with a stronger force than *aitéō* (154).

As shepherds we are called to care for the flock experiencing the pain of fiery trials. And as leaders we often experience the brunt of persecutions and difficulties. These all serve to expand our compassion and ministry to others.

It's hard watching someone suffer, especially seeing your pastor suffer. 2 Cor. 1.

Peter puts everything in the context of Christ's suffering but also remembers the glory to be revealed (1 Peter 5:1)

The exhortation: Shepherd the flock of God among you

- Shepherd
 - lead, care, feed, clean, protect, watch over
- the flock of God
 - It is firstly God's flock. We are stewards and under-shepherds. It's not primarily our flock, but his.
- among you
 - Those near you, those in close proximity to you. The temptation for shepherds can be to pastor those who are not among you or near you. But we need to take care of those God has put us among and who actually want to be with us.

Watching Over, Oversight - ἐπισκοπέω episkopéō; contracted episkopó, fut. episkopésō, from epí (1909), upon, and skopéō (4648), to regard, give attention to. To look upon, observe, examine the state of affairs of something, look after, oversee. In the NT, used in Heb. 12:15; 1 Pet. 5:2 of the work of shepherding the flock (Sept.: Deut. 11:12).

Deriv.: episkopé (1984), the office of a bishop.

Syn.: poimaínō (4165), to shepherd, tend a flock; bóskō (1006), to lead to pasture, fodder; epimeléomai (1959), to show concern over; merimnáō (3309) to be concerned.

Ant.: ameléō (272), to neglect.

Proverbs 27:23-27: Know the condition of your flock.

- Jesus.

“unfading crown of honor/praise”

Jesus example of shepherding. Moved by compassion. Willingly giving his life for the sheep. John 10.

Remember, my call to pastor

CARE

C - Compassion

A - Assistance

R - Reliability

E - Encouragement (Eagerness)

John 21

Acts 20:17-38

How does the pastor care for his sheep? Four Ways: 1) By knowing them 2) By ministering the Word to them 3) By praying for them 4) By being an example to them

5179. τύπος túpos; gen. τύπου, masc. noun from túptō (5180), to strike, smite with repeated strokes. A type, i.e., something caused by strokes or blows.

(I) A mark, print, impression (John 20:25).

(II) A figure, form.

(A) Of an image, statue (Acts 7:43 quoted from Amos 5:26).

(B) Of the form, manner, of the style of a letter (Acts 23:25); a doctrine (Rom. 6:17).

(C) Figuratively of a person as bearing the form and figure of another, as having a certain resemblance in relations and circumstances (Rom. 5:14).

(III) A prototype, pattern.

(A) Particularly of a pattern or model after which something is to be made (Acts 7:44; Heb. 8:5 [cf. Ex. 25:40]).

(B) Figuratively an example, pattern to be imitated, followed (Phil. 3:17; 1 Thess. 1:7; 2 Thess. 3:9; 1 Tim. 4:12; Titus 2:7; 1 Pet. 5:3). Hence also for admonition, warning (1 Cor. 10:6, 11).

A type as a model of some reality which was yet to appear, a prototype of that which was yet to be developed and evolved, e.g., the ordinances and institutions in the OT were, in their inward essence, types of the NT. The first era serves as a type of the second. However, the outline or archetype or model of some reality which was yet to appear was called *túpos*. A type is different than a symbol. A symbol was an equivalent, a visible sign of what is invisible, e.g., the tares in the parable of the wheat and the tares (Matt. 13:24–30; 36–43) are a symbol of the activity of the devil and his agents in one's spiritual life. A symbol is an outward manifestation of something inward, an emblem of what is higher.

Deriv.: *antítupon* (499), that which corresponds to a type, which represents the real thing; *entupóō* (1795), to impress, stamp.

Syn.: *hupotúpōsis* (5296), a sketch, pattern for imitation.