

- ▶ Suffering Is Part of Life—A Shepherd Can Lead Us Through It
- ▶ 1 Peter 5:1-4
- ▶ 1 Peter

Author: Apostle Peter

Recipients: Persecuted/Suffering Christians in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia

Key Theme: Suffering –word used 16 times directly in some form in 1 Peter (more than any other NT book)

- Peter was against the idea of suffering, yet has changed to the point where the primary theme of this book is how we should serve through suffering

Matthew 16:21 From that time Jesus began to show to 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 the third day. Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!” But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.”

- ▶ (1Pe 5:1-4 NKJV)

1 The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: 2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; 3 nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; 4 and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

- ▶ 1. Who can help? Elders

A. There is a connection between elders and the previous talks about suffering

- Therefore – our- connected thought, because of this, then this
- Elders-(1 of 3 terms used for pastors in this passage) presbyteros - elders, aged
- who are among you – those who are with you
 - i. He *is* talking to local bodies of Christians abroad who are suffering
 - ii. He is *not* talking about a televangelist, a pope or a distant board of leaders
 - iii. He *is* talking about pastors who are involved in local groups of people, who can be involved in peoples lives

B. Peter is asking them, as a companion, to serve in spite of suffering

- I exhort, -calling to, asking to, calling to side to ask
- I who am a fellow elder
 - i. Peter is an apostle, yet here puts himself in the “trenches”
 - ii. He knows what suffering is like and he knows what it is like as leader
- Peter Has Seen Christ’s Suffering and Also His Glory
- and a witness of the sufferings of Christ

- Sufferings -enduring of misfortune, anguish, pain, calamity

- i. Refers to either Christ suffering on the cross or Christ suffering throughout His life on earth in the form of a man
- and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed:
 - i. Peter has seen the glory of Christ when He was transfigured, he saw a “preview” of what Christ’s glory will be like when He returns

2Pe 1:16-17 - For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

- ▶ 2.How can Pastors Help Those Who Suffer? By Shepherding
 - Shepherd - poimainein, verb form of shepherd (second term used for pastors) - Be shepherding or be feeding
 - this is a command, it’s an imperative

☐ What does a shepherd do? Tend

- Peter has received this command from Christ before (John 21:16)

A. What does the relationship between the shepherd and the flock look like?

- the flock of God which is among you
- Pastor’s must realize the flock is God’s not their own
 - it’s not the pastor’s people, it’s God’s people
- We as sheep need to follow our shepherd

- Luke 12:32, Acts 20 and 1 Peter 5 are the occurrences of the word flock and all are used in association with a lead shepherd, Christ in Luke and pastors in others

- Pastor's are not better than the flock, they are part of it

B. Shepherds need to lead

- serving as overseers, - Overseer (bishop) – episkopeo – verb- look over carefully, oversee, supervise

C. Shepherds are to Lead Willing

- not by compulsion – not by constrain, or because you must
 - i. A pastor must not lead and serve grudgingly, as if forced into service, or out of fear of shame if he does not.
- but willingly – voluntarily, of ones own accord
 - i. Some texts have “according unto God”

1 Tim 3:1 – If a man desire the position of a bishop, he desires a good work.

- i. A pastor must have a genuine desire to lead because he knows he is serving God

D. A shepherd is in it for the flock, not himself

- not for dishonest gain- dishonest gain – greedy for money or profit
 - i. Some pastors were paid/taken care of and this is ok (2 Thes. 3:9-10, 1 Tim. 5:17-18, 1 Cor. 9:1-18)
 - ii. However Peter makes it clear that pastors can fall prey to shepherding only for money or other forms of profit
- but eagerly – readiness, promptness
 - i. A shepherd needs to be looking toward the benefit of the flock (selfless) and be prepared to act, not just going through the motions

E. A bishop is not a king, but a caretaker of THE King's flock

- nor as being lords over-exercising dominion, lording it over

Matt. 20:25 and Mark 10:42 - it is used to refer to Gentile rulers in a negative way

Acts 19:15- And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

- those entrusted to you-an allotment given, a portion given
 - A shepherd has been given a portion, it's God's flock
 - We are commanded to remember, follow, obey, submit to our pastors (Heb 13:7,17)
 - A pastor must approach the flock as a caretaker

F. A pastor needs to be an example of Christ to the flock

- but being examples to the flock; models to be copied, patterns
 - a pastor's conduct should reflect Christ, be worthy of being imitated
 - we as the flock need to be imitating

1Pe 2:21 - For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:

1Cr 11:1- Imitate me, just as I also [imitate] Christ.

▶ 3. What is a Motivation Bishops Have? A Crown

A. This Reward Does Not Come Now, But When The Head of all Flocks, Christ, Returns

- and when the Chief Shepherd appears- root words: arche and poimen - the original shepherd, THE shepherd, the first shepherd appears

- This is referring to the return of Christ, the shepherd of the not just the local flock but the entire flock of Christians

B. The Crown is a Reward for Someone Who Shepherds a Flock, Even Through Suffering

- you will receive the crown- the crown - not a crown of a king, but a winner or victor, like the Olympics etc, recognition of achieving or carrying out something

▶ Four Mentioned Crowns Throughout Scripture:

- *Crown of Rejoicing* -1Th 2:19, Phil 4:1 - For those who witness, and lead people toward getting saved

- *Crown of Righteousness* - 2Ti 4:8 - for those who love God, in contrast to living for the world, but yearning for God instead
- *Crown of Life* - Jam 1:12, Rev 2:10 - This is for those who go through trials and temptations, in contrast to some who might have it easy to live for God.
- *Crown of Glory* - 1Pe 5:4 - For those who perform the task of being an elder as God commands
- of glory -worth, value, something to be in awe of,
 - this is used throughout the Bible- when tied with God it's positive; when tied with the world, it's negative and temporary, false or fleeting
- that does not fade away- not fade away - amaranth - no end, eternal or composed of amaranth
 - amaranth - flower that doesn't wither, fade or when plucked doesn't die it comes back when it gets water