

9/21/2025

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1 Peter 5:1-4

Teaching Notes:

Title: Godly Leadership Matters

Big Idea: Everyone leads & should be growing in their leadership.

Leadership often boils down to **effectiveness & character**.

5:1 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:

Elders: presbyteros NT uses bishop, elders, & presbyters.

The word is used to compare older & younger people as well as...

...Paul tells Titus to ordain elders or leaders in the churches...

...so this includes leaders w/age or experience & w/a title or role.

...par-ak-al-eh'-o: to call to one's side, plead, comfort, instruct.

...leaders answer, "where are we going & how will we get there?"

Peter identifies w/them where they are at SO he can TAKE THEM where they NEED to be.

1. God's leaders find common ground & go forward.

Authentic connection is oxygen for relational trust.

Incarnation leadership: *a leader actively enters the context of those they lead by sharing in their experiences, struggles, and environment to build deep, authentic relationships and meet their needs*

2 Shepherd the flock of God, which is among you,

Shepherd: poy-mah'-ee-no: to feed, tend a flock, keep sheep, to rule, govern, to furnish pasture for food, to nourish

2. God's leaders lead from their relationship with God.

John 21:15 After breakfast Jesus asked Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," Peter replied, "you know I love you." "Then feed my lambs," Jesus told him. 16 He said to him again a second time, "Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My sheep." 17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time,

“Do you love Me?” And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.” Jesus said to him, “Feed My sheep.

Jesus told him, if you love Me, care for my sheep.

3. God’s leaders lead where they are.

...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.

Motives matter because they come from our heart & out of our heart comes all the issues of life.

4. God’s leaders seek God’s glory & people’s good.

*When you lead w/impure motives, God is not glorified or represented & people get hurt.
It must be corrected.*

Sermon Recap

Have you experienced good leadership? Drawing from Peter's insights, Pastor Jason reveals how authentic Christian leadership transcends titles into eternity. Whether you're leading a ministry, mentoring a friend, or raising children, this message offers practical wisdom for growing your leadership impact while staying anchored in Christ's example.

Discussion Questions

Look over these questions before your group time. Write down your answers or ideas for at least a few questions if not all. You may not get to every question during your time but speak up if you want to talk about one of them in particular. Always try to start with question #1.

1. What stood out to you and/or what do you think God might be speaking about from this message?
2. Where has God placed you as a leader right now? What sheep are among you that you can or do care for? How is it going?
3. All leaders give direction, but as a believer, how can we know if we should follow it?
4. While skills and effectiveness matter, a leader's character and motives are crucial for sustainable, godly leadership. Are there character traits you see in Christ that you want to develop to become a more Christ-like, eternally minded leader?
5. How did Peter find common ground with his audience? Is it easier as a Christian to find common ground? How could this mindset help you lead & love more like Christ?
6. Peter discussed 3 negative leadership motivations to avoid: leading by compulsion, for dishonest gain, and lording over others. Have you experienced any leaders with these kinds of motivations? What was the impact? Which might be most tempting for you to do?

Prayer Prompts

- Pray for opportunities to lead with integrity and love, following Christ's example.
 - Ask God to give us wisdom and strength in our leadership roles this week.
 - Request guidance to better meet the needs of those we are responsible for and to build deeper connections through understanding and empathy.
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5 Day Devotional

This five-day devotional will be taking a deeper dive into the sermon from this weekend. We will explore the theme of leadership as a core aspect of our spiritual journey, examining how understanding and applying these principles can guide us in our personal and communal lives.

Day 1

1 Peter 5:1-4

In this passage, Peter speaks directly to the elders, exhorting them through his shared experience as a fellow elder and witness of Christ's sufferings. Healthy leadership is not just about directing others but doing so from a place of care. Peter embodies a form of leadership that begins with understanding in walking alongside those he leads.

This concept challenges each of us to reflect on how we influence those around us, understanding that leadership is seen and felt from our actions and attitudes. We are encouraged to find common ground, highlight authenticity, and lead with a servant's heart, embodying the path Jesus laid out for us.

- Reflect on a time a leader found common ground with you. What difference did it make?
- How can you enter the spaces of those you hope to lead and understand their experiences?
- What steps can you take to ensure your leadership is based on service and care?
- Pray for insight to see where your leadership can grow in authenticity and effectiveness.
- Ask for guidance in building bridges of trust with those you lead, rather than barriers.

Day 2

John 21:15-17

The interaction between Jesus and Peter is a model of love-infused leadership. Jesus' instruction to "feed my sheep" underscores the importance of nurturing those we guide, emphasizing a caring, service-oriented approach. This narrative exemplifies the transformative power of relational leadership rooted in love.

Leadership from love influences others to join in pursuing a shared goal. Peter demonstrates that our leadership must be underpinned by our relationship with Christ.

- Consider how your relationship with Christ influences your ability to lead others with love and compassion.
- In what ways can your leadership reflect the nurturing and guiding love that Jesus showed to Peter?
- In what areas in your life this loving guidance could be more prominent?
- Seek to deepen your relationship with God, inviting His influence in your leadership style.
- Pray for the wisdom to guide others with the same care and compassion Christ extends to us.

Day 3

Matthew 20:25-28

In reinterpreting leadership through the lens of service, Jesus subverts worldly power dynamics. True leadership as illustrated here entails becoming a servant for all, being dedicated to the well-being of others. This model dismantles notions of authority as a tool of coercion, instead prioritizing moral integrity and collective upliftment.

The call to be 'servant-leaders' encourages us to examine the motivations behind our influence. The question becomes, are we leading for personal gain, or are we guiding others to foster their growth?

- Reflect on examples of servant leadership you have encountered. How did these examples influence you?
- What challenges do you face in adopting a servant leadership mindset?
- How can you practice servant leadership in your life?
- Pray for the strength to lead by example, placing others' needs above your own.
- Ask God to align your leadership practices with His vision for humility and service.

Day 4

1 Peter 5:3-5

Peter continues by advising leaders to serve not out of obligation but with a willing spirit. This element of willingness is central to sustaining an environment of integrity and trust. Leaders driven by pure motives often earn respect and become powerful examples for their communities. Understanding that leadership should extend from genuine desire rather than compulsion reflects integrity and honors those we serve. This teaching invites introspection: checking our motives could transform our leadership, deeply impacting those we guide by creating a culture of sincerity and real care.

- How do your motivations align with your leadership style? Are they rooted in genuine desire?
- What steps can you take to ensure your leadership is driven by authentic engagement?
- Evaluate how motives have affected your ability to influence others.
- Ask for discernment to cultivate and maintain pure motivations in your leadership strategies.
- Pray for the courage to examine and transform any areas where motives might not align with God-like leadership.

Day 5

1 Peter 5:4

Peter highlights the eternal perspective of leadership, where God's leaders aim for the crown of glory that lasts beyond our earthly life. Such a perspective shifts our focus from temporal achievements to eternal legacy and a commitment to God's glory and the good of His people. The yearning for a legacy that extends into eternal life ensures our leadership today transcends momentary gain. This future-focused leadership challenges us to invest in the lives of those among us while making sure our impact reflects Jesus' eternal love and purpose.

- Do you cultivate an eternal perspective in your leadership?
- Reflect on the legacy you are building: how well does it reflect Christ's eternal values?
- In what ways can you ensure that your leadership impact is not just temporal but eternal?
- Pray for an eternal perspective in all aspects of your leadership and interactions.
- Seek God's aid in guiding you to lead in ways that prioritize His glory and the eternal good of those you serve.