

# THE TAKE AWAY

DISCUSSION GUIDE

**Sunday, August 22, 2021**

## **Message Summary**

In this week's message, Pastor John Carter taught us that just like the shepherd has certain responsibilities to the sheep, the sheep also have their own responsibilities. These responsibilities help to ensure that you get the most out of your relationship with your shepherd and with your sheepfold – the Church. First and foremost, it is essential that you receive the ministers that God has given to you. Once you recognize who your shepherd is, you have to receive them. That means you have to accept their leadership, gifting and wisdom – even in their humanity. Ministers aren't perfect, but they carry something Jesus gave to them, something you need. That is why you must recognize who God has called them to be in your life. They labor to take care of you and to teach what you need to know to grow in God. This means you should support their good work and highly esteem them. Your attitude toward your leadership matters. It is important that you honor and respect your shepherds, not give them grief. Like spiritual parents, they are in your life to watch over you, care for you, and help you to become all God has called you to be.

## **Key Scriptures:**

- **[Matthew 10:40-42 NKJV]** 40 "He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. 41 "He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. 42 "And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold [water] in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward."
- **[1Thessalonians 5:12-13 NKJV]** 12 And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, 13 and to *esteem them very highly in love* for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves.
- **[Hebrews 13:7 NLT]** 7 Remember your leaders who taught you the word of God. Think of all the good that has come from their lives, and follow the example of their faith.

## **Discussion Questions:**

1. How can you show that you have recognized and received your shepherd?
2. Why is it important that you highly esteem your leaders?
3. What are some ways that you can show honor and respect toward your shepherds?
4. How can you follow their example?

## **Life Application:**

This week as you study the key scriptures, consider what Pastor John said, "If you are called to the local church, you need to see beyond the humanity of your shepherd, and esteem them highly as the gift that God has given to you." This is about the attitude of your heart toward leadership. You need to ensure that your heart toward leadership is right, that your heart is open. Because to receive what God has for you to receive *through* them, you have to remember that they are the anointed leader chosen by God for your life, and your heart should honor them and love them. Remember this as you pray for your leaders and shepherds this week!