

C3:16

4.10.24

I Peter 5:1-4

I exhort the elders among you as a fellow elder and witness to the sufferings of Christ, as well as one who shares in the glory about to be revealed: ² Shepherd God's flock among you, not overseeing^[a] out of compulsion but willingly, as God would have you;^[b] not out of greed for money but eagerly; ³ not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

Observations:

---Why sheep?

“sheep are one of the few animals that do not have a defense system.’

”sheep are notorious for following the leader, regardless of how dangerous or foolish that may be.”

“human beings are compared to sheep in the Bible is that sheep are prone to wander away from the flock.” gotquestions.org

---Elders are mentioned by several other early writers.

Acts 11:30 They did this, sending it to the elders by means of Barnabas and Saul.

I Tim 5:17 The elders who are good leaders are to be considered worthy of double honor,^[a] especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching.

Titus 1:5 The reason I left you in Crete was to set right what was left undone and, as I directed you, to appoint elders in every town.

---New Testament Elders were always “plural”

I. Peter related to Elders.

I exhort the elders among you as a fellow elder and witness to the sufferings of Christ, as well as one who shares in the glory about to be revealed:

Peter was offering encouragement.

Jn 14:16-17 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor^[a] to be with you forever. ¹⁷ He is the Spirit of truth. The world is

unable to receive him because it doesn't see him or know him. But you do know him, because he remains with you and will beⁱⁿ in you.

Peter had empathy

Peter knew about suffering

Peter knew he would be in heaven with the Elders.

II. Peter's challenge to the Elders.

² Shepherd God's flock among you, not overseeingⁱⁿ out of compulsion but willingly, as God would have you;ⁱⁿ not out of greed for money but eagerly; ³ not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.

Elders must shepherd.

Elders must shepherd God's flock

Elders must be fully committed and willing.

Elders must understand and embrace their calling

Elders must never lead for money.

Acts 20:33-35 I have not coveted anyone's silver or gold or clothing. ³⁴ You yourselves know that I worked with my own hands to support myself and those who are with me. ³⁵ In every way I've shown you that it is necessary to help the weak by laboring like this and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, because he said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

I Cor 9:¹⁴ In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should earn their living by the gospel.

Elders must never abuse their calling.

Elder must lead by example.

III. Peter reminded Elders of their rewards.

⁴ And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

"Appears" is referring to the second coming.

"Unfading" refers to the eternity of rewards...

Close:

A challenge to all the "sheep"

Pray for them.

Respect them.

Test them.

Follow them.