



ShalomAZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption

“Lead Others the Way He Leads You”

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Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Texts: 1 Pet 5:1-6; Luke 22:31-34, 55-62; John 21:15-22; 10:11-16; 13:3-5; Matt 20:24-28

Have you ever thought you were stronger than you really were—only to be stunned by your own failure? That was Peter. He was all in—until the crisis moment exposed his weakness. And when he denied Yeshua, it crushed him. But Yeshua didn't cast him aside. He restored him. And not just to friendship—but to leadership. *“Feed My sheep,”* He said. That moment shaped the kind of leader Peter became. By the time we get to 1 Peter 5, Peter isn't writing as a man flaunting authority—he's writing as one who remembers what mercy tastes like. One who knows what it means to be humbled, forgiven, and invited again to lead like Yeshua—gently, humbly, and sacrificially.

Let's dive into the kind of leadership Peter now calls us to in 1 Peter 5:1-6. Whether you're leading a home, your children, a ministry, a small group, or simply walking with others—you are influencing someone. And Peter says: lead like you've been forgiven.

1. LEAD WITH A WILLING HEART, NOT A HEAVY HAND

Peter starts with those shepherding the flock—not as a boss barking orders, but as one who walks beside them. He says, “I'm a fellow elder with you.” That's significant. This is the guy Yeshua said He'd build His congregation on—and now he calls himself a co-shepherd. No ego. No “I'm in charge.” Just a servant walking with other servants.

And what does he tell them? Don't lead because you have to. Lead because you want to—because you love the Lord and His people. That kind of heart makes a difference. There's a big difference between a leader who serves out of duty and one who serves out of love. One drains people; the other pours life into them. And Peter says: don't be motivated by selfish gain or guilt-driven obligation. Be eager, be joyful, and be a willing vessel.

He also reminds us that the sheep we serve aren't ours. *“Tend God's flock among you,”* he says. These are not “your people,” not “your followers”—they're God's. That keeps us humble. That reminds us we're stewards, not owners. The call is to care well, not to control. That's the kind of leadership that mirrors the heart of Yeshua.

So if you're in a role where others look to you—whether it's your kids, your coworkers, your community, or your congregation—ask yourself: am I leading like someone who's been loved, forgiven, and entrusted with something precious? Because that's how Yeshua leads us.

2. BE THE EXAMPLE, NOT THE EXCEPTION

Peter says plainly: “Don't lord it over those entrusted to you, but be examples to the flock.” That's both freeing and weighty. He's not saying you need to be perfect, but you do need to be genuine. Leadership in God's kingdom isn't about wielding authority—it's about walking the talk. Yeshua didn't just teach humility—He knelt and washed feet.

Peter knew the pull toward pride. He had tried to lead with bravado before. Remember him saying, *“Even if everyone else abandons You, I won't”*? But when it mattered most, he buckled. And Yeshua restored him—not with shame, but with purpose: *“Feed My sheep.”* Peter never forgot that. And now he's saying to other leaders, “You want to lead like Yeshua? Then live like Him. Serve like Him.”

In a world that's used to top-down control, spiritual leaders must model something radically different. People need to see leaders can say, "Follow me as I follow Messiah." Not in arrogance, but in authenticity. When leaders live with integrity—when they confess failure, love consistently, and serve sacrificially—they become a living sermon. Whether you're shepherding a family or a fellowship, someone is watching how you live. So what kind of example are you setting? Are you reflecting the gentleness, courage, and humility of Yeshua? Peter says that's what shepherds do—**they don't dominate; they demonstrate.**

3. WEAR HUMILITY LIKE A UNIFORM—BECAUSE GOD RESISTS PRIDE

Peter doesn't stop with leaders. He turns to everyone: "*Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another.*" That's powerful. Humility isn't just an inner feeling—it's something visible, like a garment you put on daily. And why? Because "*God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.*" Think about that. Pride doesn't just make life harder—it puts you in opposition to God. And yet humility draws His grace like a magnet. In God's kingdom, the way up is always down. Yeshua had all authority—but what did He do with it? He wrapped a towel around His waist and washed feet. He laid down His life.

Peter says, "*Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that He may lift you up at the right time.*" We often think of God's hand as heavy. But remember: the same hand that has all power is the one that washed Peter's feet. When you humble yourself under His hand, you're not being crushed—you're being formed. And in His time, He'll lift you up—not to status or applause—but into the place He's prepared for you. So if you're in a season of quiet service, unseen sacrifice, or humbled beginnings—don't fight it. Embrace it. Trust that the God who calls you to humble yourself will also be faithful to lift you in the right time.

CONCLUSION

Peter's journey is our invitation. He failed big—but Yeshua didn't cancel him. He restored him. And He used Peter to teach us how to lead with a servant's heart. Whether you're an elder, a parent, a friend, or a follower of Yeshua, this is the call: Lead like you've been forgiven. Shepherd like you've been shepherded. Walk humbly because you've seen what pride can do. And trust the One who will lift you up in His time.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How does Peter's personal journey of failure and restoration shape the way we read his words in 1 Peter 5?
2. What does it practically look like to shepherd others "willingly" and not out of obligation?
3. Why is being an example more powerful than giving orders when it comes to leadership?
4. How have you experienced the difference between a domineering leader and a servant-hearted one?
5. What area of your life is God inviting you to "clothe yourself with humility"?

CLOSING PRAYER:

Abba, we thank You for Your mercy that restores and Your grace that invites us to lead like Your Son. We confess that too often, we've led out of pride, fear, or selfish ambition. But today, we choose the way of Yeshua. Help us to shepherd with willing hearts, serve as true examples, and wear humility like a garment. May our lives reflect the heart of the Chief Shepherd, and may we lead others not to ourselves—but to You.

In the name of Yeshua, our Good Shepherd and King, amen.