Following His Shepherds

Tony Mauck · Hebrews 13:17

INTRODUCTION

- This series of admonitions that might just be well entitled, Hang On. Hang on spiritually.
- Obey your leaders, and submit to them. For they keep watch over your souls. As those who will give an account.
- So he designed his church to have men who would serve as shepherds, protecting her from various threats, and feeding and nourishing her with his will.

1 What Kind of Men They Are

1 Timothy 3; John 21:15–17; Matthew 20:25–28

- But they are seasoned men of faith, equipped with extensive knowledge and wisdom to assist them in their great work.
- These shepherds are doing a tremendous work, a work of service that is motivated by love for God and his people.
- It means as a leader among my people, you feed my sheep. You tend my lambs.
- Being an elder is not about being a chief executive officer. It's not about being a lord or a ruler.
- Whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant.
- They are not lords and despots, but servants.

2 Obey Your Leaders and Submit to Them

Hebrews 13:17; Acts 5:29; Ephesians 5:21

- Elders bear a great responsibility. They watch out for the entire flock. Every single sheep.
- If they are the men of character that we deem them to be when we installed them in this work, then we are obligated to submit to their leadership and guidance.
- This doesn't mean to follow someone blindly to the extent that they lead you into the practice of error. In that sense, we must obey God rather than men.
- And so the elders, though they wield authority and we are to obey our leaders, they look at the flock and say, How can I be of service to them?
- If I become one who engages in misconduct and poor behavior, they have to give their resources and attention to me.
- And make sure that I'm not contributing to their grief, but their joy.

THE CHALLENGE

Consider how you stand presently before the Lord. Are there changes that you need to make to come into a right relationship with him and to be prepared to meet him on the last day and to be judged by him?

MY NOTES