God's Shepherds

Tony Mauck · 1 Peter 5:1–4

INTRODUCTION

- There's a sense in which this lesson goes beyond those who are designated as shepherds of our flock, to the shepherding that we all need to be doing as Christians.
- It has at times degenerated into a popularity contest, a wrangling over control and power within the local church.

1 Not a Stepping Stone but a Sphere of Work

1 Peter 5:1–4

- It is not a stepping stone to power. But it is instead a sphere of work.
- Shepherd the flock of God among you. Exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God, and not for sordid gain.
- Underscore that phrase in 1 Peter 5 and verse 3, nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge.
- Elders can abuse their position to make their opinion the law on everything. But proving instead, in contrast to lording it over the flock, but proving to be examples to the flock.

2 Not About a Man's Glory but the Glory of God

John 10; Mark 6:34; John 21:15–17

- No one should accept this position as a stroke of his ego.
- We do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus as Lord and ourselves as bond servants for Jesus' sake.
- It is about being a servant to the glory of God, to Him be the glory in the church.
- Tend my sheep. Feed my lambs. Take care of my sheep, Peter.

3 Not Spiritual Perfection but an Opportunity to Serve

Galatians 2

- It is not a testimony to spiritual perfection. But it is instead a great opportunity to serve others.
- Strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble and make straight paths for your feet.
- You have people with spiritual problems that need guidance and direction and help. And that's what the shepherds do.
- We're setting a standard that God does not set. This is not about spiritual perfection or these men being perfect in judgment all the time.

4 Not a Sudden Decision but Years of Preparation

Acts 20:28; Hebrews 13:17

- It is not a sudden decision. It is the result of years of preparation.
- There's nothing that says you can't do that kind of work now. And that's where we need more shepherds.
- Who says that the elders have to do all the work of shepherding? They're the responsible ones. They're going to give an account.

5 Four Improper Motivations

- I'm going to be an elder so I can make all the decisions regarding the treasury.
- My opinion reigns supreme. The buck stops here. I decide everything. Lording it over the flock.
- This is about being able to hire and fire the preacher.
- This is about getting recognition from others about my spirituality and thus feeding my ego.
- You shouldn't need a title to do the work of shepherd.

6 What Kind of Man Can Do the Work Effectively

1 Timothy 3:1–7; Titus 1; 1 Timothy 5:9

- If a man aspires to this work, aspires again, not for personal advancement or self-glory, but for God's glory and the welfare of his people.
- Most of them have to do with qualities that everyone who pursues walking in the light should maintain.
- Some of the best elders are peacemakers. A way to find peace on the basis of truth.
- If a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?

THE CHALLENGE

And if you're considering this work, if you are one who is being asked to do this work, may this be a time of much reflection and prayer for you as well.

MY NOTES