Serving As Shepherds

Tony Mauck · 1 Peter 5:1–4

INTRODUCTION

- And you need to know the biblical model of what an elder is to be. Whether you're 50 or 15 or 85.
- The misconceptions lead to conflict as to who's going to be allowed to serve in this capacity.
- Men and their families over scrutinized to the extent that these passages become guidelines for disqualification rather than guidelines for qualification.

1 Not a Stepping Stone to Power, a Sphere of Work

1 Peter 5:1–4; James 2

- It is not a stepping stone to power. But instead, it is a sphere of work.
- Shepherd the flock of God among you, not a flock somewhere else. Exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but voluntarily.
- Nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.
- When the elders work is described in the New Testament, it is a sphere of work. Verbs are all over it.

2 Not an Accolade of Achievement but Great Responsibility

Hebrews 13:17; James 3:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:12–14

- It is not an accolade of achievement. But it is an assumption of great responsibility.
- I will need to become much more observant of the flock and the soul who may be slipping.
- Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls, As those who will give an account, not just of themselves, but the souls that they shepherded.
- Let's do our duty to be faithful to Christ and make their job more joyous as shepherds.

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

- Thirdly, it is not then about a man's glory. It is about the glory of God.
- I have only accomplished what I have accomplished because the Lord has used me. I am merely his instrument.
- It should never ever be about the boostering of my own ego.
- May we never be puffed up like a rooster in our sphere of service for the Lord.

4 Not Graduation but Being More Like the Master

Mark 6:34; John 21:15–17

- Just because one has served well as deacon does not mean that they are fit to serve in this capacity.
- It is not graduation from having long served as a deacon. It is a way to be more like the master.

- And he felt compassion for them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things.
- Despite having that kind of authority, what is Jesus emphasizing to him in that discussion? It's about caring for the sheep.

5 Not Spiritual Perfection but a Great Opportunity to Save Others

Galatians 6:1–2; Hebrews 12:12–13; 1 Timothy 3

- It is not a testimony to spiritual perfection. But a great opportunity to save others.
- Would that not be evangelism if we could just keep the saved among the saved? Every soul matters to God.
- That's an evangelism too. Of keeping those who are among the saved spiritually healthy.
- If he hasn't been able to guide these two souls in some way, how's he going to guide 150 souls?

6 He Has Some Experience in This Area

- He's already demonstrated that he can help people and guide them and serve them. And now he's ready to serve in this capacity.
- The way you raise your children has a bearing on the confidence that people have in you.
- You need to be thinking about this now, as young men, because this is a high sphere of service to which Jesus calls a man and his family.

THE CHALLENGE

Let the greatest among you be his servant. And that's what we're all called to be. His servants. And may we serve and serve well to the glory of God.

MY NOTES