

Intro:

XXIII. Shepherding the Flock

A. The Issues in Shepherding - vs 1-2a

1. The Need for Exhortation

- a. The people have been suffering unjustly - 4:12-19 so Peter exhorts the elders to shepherd the flock
- b. the Holy Spirit affirms that the leadership and responsibility of the church is theirs
 - i. elders are first mentioned in Ac 11:30; identified as the leaders of the church
 - ii. Following passages make clear their role - Ac 14:23; 15:4, 6, 22-23; 16:4; 20:17; 21:18
 - iii. 1 Tim 5:16 says, they rule*while they* labor in the word and doctrine.
 - iv. Tit 1:5 establishes they were to lead every church
 - v. Qualifications found in 1 Tim 3; Tit 1

2. Exhort - *parakaleo* - lit. to call alongside, to encourage, to compel someone in a certain direction

- a. used of ministry of the Holy Spirit - Jo 14:16-17, 26; 15:26; 16:7
- b. Peter is making a direct appeal to them

3. Elders

- a. three terms used of elder interchangeably
 - i. elder - *prebuterion* - 1 Ti 5:19; 2 Jo 3; 3 Jo 1 - emphasizes spiritual maturity
 - ii. bishop or overseer - *episkopos* - Phil 1:1; 1 Ti 3:2; Tit 1:7 - emphasizes general responsibility of guardianship
 - iii. pastor - *poimen* - Eph 4:11 - emphasizes the priority duty of feeding/teaching the truth of God's word
- b. Godly design for leadership
 - i. plural form of elder is used throughout the NT saying that the office was designed for a plurality of men
 - ii. the singular form is only used when referring to a particular elder - Peter refers to himself as "a fellow elder"
 - iii. plurality of leadership brings balance that singular leadership cannot
 - more ministry care - Ex 18:13-25
 - Helps protect against error - 1 Co 14:29, 32
 - Variety of gifting brings balance to the importance of subjects
 - Eliminates discontinuity - if one leaves, there are others to fill in

4. Shepherd

- a. what this entails
 - i. unequalled responsibility - Heb 13:17 - they watch out for your souls
 - ii. Includes positive elements of
 - spiritual leadership toward maturity
 - Guardianship to protect the flock from error
 - iii. Chief duty is feeding the flock by teaching God's revealed truth through preaching
 - Peter's firsthand instruction - Jo 21:15-17

- feed my sheep - used twice
- shepherding embodies feeding
 - not only what they want to hear - 2 Ti 4:3-4
 - Jeremiah rebuked the pastors for failing to feed /care for God's people - Jer 23:1-4

b. motivation for shepherding

- i. Peter identifies himself with them - fellow elder
- ii. Peter reminds them that he is “a witness of the sufferings of Christ” indicating his apostolic authority - Lk 6:12-16; Ac 1:12-17
 - a witness sees the event
 - a witness testifies to what he saw
- iii. also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed:
 - the reminder of the genuine hope of eternal reward
 - partaker - *koinonos* - **Php 3:20-21; Col 3:4**

B. Shepherding Who? - vs 2b

1. the flock of God

- a. shepherd - *poimaino*/ flock - *poimnion* - a delegated stewardship
- b. Ac 20:28 "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. - 1 Pe 1:18-19 - the value of the church to Him

2. which is among you, - those that God gives - **Jo 17:6-9**

C. How Shepherding Is Done - vs 2c-3

1. serving as overseers - *episkopeo* - to oversee; by implication, to beware:--look diligently, take the oversight.

2. being examples to the flock - sufficiently involved in their lives that they may see

- a. not by compulsion but willingly, - eager, willing service
 - i. 1Co 9:16 For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!
 - ii. 2Co 5:11a Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men;
 - iii. Some versions say - “according to the will of God”
- b. not for dishonest gain but eagerly; - 1Ti 3:3,8; Tit 1:7
 - i. goes beyond seeking wealth, but shameful acquisition of it
 - ii. Paul's example - Ac 18:1-3; 20:33-34; 1Co 4:12; Ac 20:1Th 2:9; 2Th 3:8; Phil 4:10-19
- c. nor as being lords over those entrusted to you
 - i. *katakuriuo* - to lord against, control, subjugate:--exercise dominion over (lordship), be lord over, overcome. - Mt 20:25-26; 1Co 3:9;
 - ii. *kleros* - a die (for drawing chances); a portion; an acquisition:--heritage, inheritance, lot, part. - Mt 18 5-14 - receiving a child in My name

D. Why Serve as a Shepherd - vs 4

1. when the Chief Shepherd appears,

a. shepherd imagery

i. OT - Ps 23; Zech 13:7

ii. NT - Good Shepherd - Jo 10:11; Great Shepherd - Heb 13:20-21

b. *phaneroo* - to render apparent: to reveal, to make manifest - 2nd coming

2. you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

a. crown - in the Roman world - the reward of victors - 1Co 9:24-25

b. does not fade away - they are called “eternal rewards” - 1Pe 1:4