

Shepherding

June 26, 2022

DAY 1: The need of a shepherd

1. All four gospels report on the feeding of the 5,000. It was a marvelous miracle, but what is striking to me is what Mark records just before the miraculous event.

Mark 6:34 When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

a. How did Jesus view the people? What imagery came to His mind?

b. What was His initial internal response when He landed onshore?

c. Jesus “*began teaching them many things.*” Why?

2. What strikes you about the combination of these points?

3. Jesus went through the countryside meeting with the people, teaching them, and healing. Mark records very similar observations on these mission trips.

Matt. 9:36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ³⁸ Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.

a. Mark adds some details to people being “*like sheep without a shepherd.*” What do you think Jesus saw in people that made Him see us as:

- Harassed?
- Helpless?

b. Jesus sees potential for these people? What imagery does He use?

c. What is needed to reach all these people?

4. If you are a believer in Jesus you are to be part of the solution to this great problem! What strikes you from today’s devotional?

DAY 2: God, as shepherd; Jesus as Chief Shepherd

1. David spells out what it meant that God was his shepherd in Psalm 23. Under each of the verses, jot down what strikes you from David's explanation of having God as his shepherd.

Psalm 23:1 The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

² *He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,*

³ *he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.*

⁴ *Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.*

⁵ *You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.*

⁶ *Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.*

2. Jesus refers to Himself as our shepherd.

Matt. 26:31 Then Jesus told them, "This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written: "I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered."

3. He was willing to be struck down for the sheep!

*Hebrews 13:20 Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, **that great Shepherd of the sheep,**²¹ equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen*

4. What strikes you from these two verses in Hebrews 13?

1 Pet. 2:25 For "you were like sheep going astray," a but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

5. This becomes wonderfully very personal for every believer!

DAY 3: Under shepherds: Titus 1:5-9

1. Paul was starting churches all over what is now Turkey, southern Europe, and the island of Crete. Paul wrote the book of Titus to the man he left in Crete to get the churches organized and growing. Titus' main ministry was appointing elders to lead these churches.

2. As we read these passages in the next few days, remember that the word elder, shepherd, overseer, and pastor were used interchangeably to refer to the same leadership role.

3. What we have are the qualifications to be an elder or pastor or shepherd.

Titus 1:5 The reason I left you in Crete was that you might put in order what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you. ⁶ An elder must be blameless, faithful to his wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. ⁷ Since an overseer manages God's household, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. ⁸ Rather, he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. ⁹ He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.

4. There are striking classifications of qualifications.

a. **Character.**

What is most striking is that the qualifications for pastoring/shepherding/eldering are mostly character issues! Go back and underline each character quality Paul identifies as important.

b. **Home life:** relationships and responsibilities.

What strikes you from Titus 1:6-8?

c. **A man's lifestyle.**

He is expected to be responsible in his personal life, his public life, and his work life!

What strikes you from Titus 1:6-8 as regards his lifestyle?

d. **His commitment to the bible and being able to teach it**

What strikes you from Titus 1:9?

5. The role of example is what stands out the most!

6. What strikes you from today's devotional?

DAY 4: Under shepherds: 1 Timothy 3:1-7

1. Paul had started the church in the great city of Ephesus (Acts 19). We later learn that he spent three years establishing that church.

2. Paul was Timothy's mentor. Timothy had been on Paul's second missionary journey. Timothy proved to be invaluable in the growth of the ministry in the early church. Paul referred to Timothy as his fellow-worker, bond-servant, son, and brother. Paul considered Timothy a co-equal with him.

3. Here are Paul's instructions as to adding top-level leadership in the church. The word "overseer" is synonymous with elder, pastor, and shepherd.

1 Timothy 3:1 Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task. ² Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ³ not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. ⁴ He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect. ⁵ (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) ⁶ He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. ⁷ He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

4. There are striking classifications of qualifications.

a. **Character.**

What is most striking is that the qualifications for pastoring/shepherding/eldering are mostly character issues! Go back and underline each character quality Paul identifies as important.

b. **Home life:** relationships and responsibilities.

What strikes you from 1 Tim. 3:2-5?

c. **A man's lifestyle.**

He is expected to be responsible in his personal life, his public life, and his work life!

What strikes you from 1 Timothy 3:2-5 as regards his lifestyle?

d. **He must be a good teacher of the bible** (1 Tim. 3:2)

5. The role of example is what stands out the most!

6. What strikes you from today's devotional?

DAY 5: Under shepherds: 1 Peter 5:1-6

1. The two letters of Peter are letters written to believers everywhere. They deal most with the issue of suffering and persecution.

2. Paul teaches us about how an elder should be and serve, and also our responsibilities in response to elders in the church.

1 Peter 5:1 To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: ² Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; ³ not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

⁵ In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." ⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

3. Under each of the categories below, fill in what Peter tells the elders to do and be:

a. Character:

b. Actions:

c. Attitudes:

4. Peter turns his attention to those in the church.

a. What is the relationship to be of church member to elder?

b. What attitude is to be prominent among everyone?

5. Week's wrap-up: a few closing observations.

a. Shepherding/eldering is largely by example in character, relationships, and responsibilities.

b. Shepherding is mostly done relationally.

c. Biblical teaching is an important function.

d. We are to submit (within scriptural limits) to our elders.

e. Everyone is to have an attitude of humility toward one another.

6. As you think about having influence in the lives of people in your church, in what area of growth would you like to see progress? (Character, relationships, responsibilities, attitude, commitment to the bible, other?)