

Welcome To

Malvern Bible Chapel



Shepherds of God's Flock

Part of the Teaching Series: The Church

1 Peter 5:1-4

Robert L. Watt

March 5, 2017

Shepherds of God's Flock

Introduction:

- 8th lesson in the church series. Previously we looked at:
- Who or what is the church? Where do I belong in the church (spiritual gifts)? Who is in charge of the church? Four marks of a healthy church. Lord's Supper. Baptism. Witness and worship. Today we look into leadership.
- Context
- Examples of Moses and David (**Psa. 78:70-72**)
- Three words used interchangeably:
 1. **Episcopos** (emphasize authority & duty to provide oversight)
 2. **Presbuteros** (emphasize the maturity of experience)
 3. **Poimén** (emphasize the feeding, protecting & leading—shepherd)
- Part 2 next week (The Role of Biblical Elders).

Shepherds of God's Flock

1 Peter 5:1-4

5 The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: **2** Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; **3** nor as being lords 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 does not fade away.

Shepherds of God's Flock

Body of Lesson:

What qualifications should a leader possess?

1. Intimacy with Christ.

Three proofs of this in text (v.1)

- a. **Title used (v.1a).** Peter understood his proper place. Not exalted leader of the church but a fellow-elder.
- b. **Witness of the sufferings of Christ (v.1b).** Witness = Martyr. Saw the death of Christ (**Matt. 26:36ff**) and he could no longer be silent even if it cost him his life!
- c. **Partaker of the glory that shall be revealed (v.1c).** Peter was with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration (**Matt. 17:1-5**) and saw Christ in all His glory!

Shepherds of God's Flock

What qualifications should a leader possess?

2. Heart after God.

Example of David, model shepherd and leader, “was a man after God’s own heart, who will do all My will” ([Acts 13:22](#)). What was God’s will for a shepherd leader? Three things mentioned in text:

- a. **Feed the flock of God (v.2a)—elder’s ministry.** See Jesus’ charge to feed My sheep/lambs ([Jn. 21:15-17](#)).
 - Some versions read “Shepherd the flock of God”.
 - Lead the flock to different pastures to not exhaust the food.
 - Go ahead of the flock to search out pitfalls, bad food, enemies.
 - Disciplines and restores wayward sheep.
 - Concerned for the well being of each sheep; accountability.

Shepherds of God's Flock

John 21:15-17

¹⁵ So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?”

He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.”

He said to him, “**Feed My lambs.**”

¹⁶ He said to him again a second time, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?”

He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.”

He said to him, “**Tend My sheep.**”

¹⁷ He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?”

Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?”

And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.”

Jesus said to him, “**Feed My sheep.**”

Shepherds of God's Flock

What qualifications should a leader possess?

2. Heart after God (cont).

- a. **Feed the flock of God—elder's ministry (v.2a).** See Jesus' charge to feed My sheep/lambs ([Jn. 21:15-17](#)).
- b. **Serve as overseers—elder's motive (v.2b).** Be protective of the flock entrusted to them ([Acts 20:28-35](#)).
 - Bishop from the same root, but of local church “among them”.
 - Elder leads by looking over the condition of the flock and doing whatever is necessary to bring sheep to full maturity.
 - Elder not to be lazy. Work not by constraint but willingly.
 - MBC elders not paid, but they could be if serving full-time.
- c. **Be an example to the flock—elder's manner (v.3).**
 - Leader, not a dictator; doesn't seek to be greatest ([Lk. 22:24-30](#)).
 - Servant leadership; lead from in front, not drive from behind!

Shepherds of God's Flock

What qualifications should a leader possess?

3. Hope for the Chief Shepherd.

No retirement unless incapacitated. A leader must desire to please God and be found faithful when the Chief Shepherd appears (v.4). “Well done good and faithful servant.” (**Matt. 25:21,23**). There are 3 titles of Christ as Shepherd in Scripture:

- a. **The Good Shepherd**—died for the sheep (**Jn. 10:11**)
- b. **The Great Shepherd**—lives for the sheep (**Heb. 13:20**)
- c. **The Chief Shepherd**—comes for the sheep (**1 Pet. 5:4**)
 - Evaluate our service and gives an appropriate reward.
 - Remember—our service for the Lord is not in vain (**1 Cor. 15:58**).
 - No idea what a “crown of glory” is all about—leave that to Him!

Shepherds of God's Flock

Application:

(Excuse the personal challenge primarily to me this time!)

1. Am I showing signs of maturity that qualify me as leader of God's flock?
2. Look at the transformations that took place in the life of Peter. How about me?

Impetuous → **Intimate with Christ?**

Fisherman → **Shepherd of God's flock?**

Crown of shame → **Crown of glory?**

3. Is my leadership as a shepherd of God's flock causing the sheep to rejoice? (**Psalm 23**)

Shepherds of God's Flock

23 The LORD *is* my shepherd;

I shall not want.

² He makes me to lie down in green pastures;

He leads me beside the still waters.

³ He restores my soul;

He leads me in the paths of righteousness

For His name's sake.

⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

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 runs over.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

All the days of my life;

And I will dwell in the house of the LORD

Forever.

Shepherds of God's Flock

