SERMON NOTES

"Shepherding and being Shepherded" (1 Peter 5:1-5)

Verses to Remember: "Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, 2 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, but with eagerness; 3 nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock" (1 Peter 5:1-3).

What are elders?
Local churches are to be led by a group of elders. Elders are also referred to as "overseers" (cf. Acts 20:17, 28; Titus 1:5-7). Here in 1 Peter 5:2, the elders are told to shepherd the flock by "exercising oversight." "Elder" emphasizes the qualifications, while "overseer" emphasizes the role. The term "pastor," which means shepherd, is also used of elders. "Elders," "overseers," and "pastors" are all words for the same group who are to lead the local church as shepherds.

Elders: The requirements, the roles, and the response
1. The Requirements
- The requirements for elders are found in Titus 1:5-9 and 1 Timothy 3:1-7.
- There are 25 qualifications that can be put into seven groups:
1. Able to teach, keep hold of the deep truths, not a recent convert;
2. Holy and righteous, love what is good;
3. Blameless and above reproach, respectable, a good reputation with outsiders;
4. Not self-willed, not pugnacious, not quick-tempered, peaceable, gentle;
5. Self-controlled, prudent, temperate, not given to drunkenness;
6. Not a lover of money, does not pursue dishonest gain; hospitable;
7. Husband of one wife (one woman man), manages his own family well, and keeps his children in obedience so that they are faithful, not accused of rebellion.

2. The Roles
- The role is that of a shepherd, which can be broken down into seven roles:
1. Finding the lost and scattered (cf. Luke 15:3-5).
2. Care and prayer (cf. James 5:14).
3. Spiritual feeding (This speaks to regular teaching of the Word of God.)
4. Material feeding (cf. 1 Peter 5:2; Ez 34).
5. Protecting (This speaks to protecting from false prophets and teachers.)
6. Exhorting and disciplining (This is helping people apply the Word of God.)
7. Leading by example with humility (1 Peter 5:3-4; Matt 20:25-28).

3. The Response
- Being teachable, leadable, encouraging, and supportive (cf. Heb 13:17).

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