



10/2/26

Normally on Fridays, I would be telling you what we talked about on the Chosen and Cherished podcast, but I was not able to record it this week because my voice decided to take a vacation. I open my mouth but only squeaks come out. So, Lord willing, I will plan to be back at it next week. Until then, stay healthy... and I'll try to get there.

*Blessings,
Jonna*

1 Peter 5:1-5

This week we start a new focus in our Kingdom Outpost series, Faithful Leaders. The leaders of the church are so important because they set the tone for the whole church. "As the leadership goes, so goes the church... home... office." 1 Peter 5:1-5 gives clear direction for how the leaders should lead, and how the followers should follow, and how we should all treat each other.

Vs. 1-4 are focused on the leaders...

"So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed..."

I think it's pretty humble of Peter to encourage the elders "as a fellow elder." He was an apostle. He could have come at them with more authority than he did. Especially in light of who he was before Jesus died and rose again, and who he became, his humility can't be overlooked. This is what God does in me when I let Him lead. He humbles me! That's a much more satisfying life than a life of arrogance.

Peter also addressed them "as a witness of the sufferings of Christ." The fact that he saw Jesus suffer probably made the things Jesus taught so much more meaningful for him. Plus, he knew that Jesus' suffering led to His death and resurrection... which means we get to fellowship with Him for all eternity when the fulness of His glory is revealed.

It seems that Paul's connection with the elders was less about appealing to them based on authority and more based on relationship and mutual love for Jesus. It really models Jesus' example when He said in Matthew 20:25-28, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles Lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."

This is what Peter called the leaders of the church to do:

"Shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock."

"Shepherd the flock of God that is among you." I don't think it's any mistake that Peter called the people the "flock OF GOD." Leaders are called to remember that the sheep are GOD's sheep.

So... how does God, the Chief Shepherd, want the leaders to lead?

- *Exercise oversight... diligently care for them.*
- *Not under compulsion, but willingly... not because you feel forced into it, but because you WANT to care for them as Jesus cares for you.*
- *As God would have you... Let His example be your example. Let His way be your way. Don't define your own rules.*
- *Not for shameful gain... not to use people for what you can get out of them.*
- *Eagerly... with God honoring passion.*
- *Not domineering over those in your charge... not trying to control them or get them to get under YOUR leadership, but to be faithful to point them to follow GOD's leadership.*
- *Being an example to the sheep... Just as kids learn far more from what parents model in the home than what they teach, the church will learn from what their leaders model to them.*

This is important in counseling. If I'm trying to teach someone what a gentle and quiet spirit looks like while I pummel them with harsh words, they will not trust me or respect me. The way to honor the Lord and point to Him is to speak the truth directly, but with gentle, humble grace. I'm so thankful that God teaches me and grows me as He is also teaching and growing the people He allows me to counsel. All for His glory, never for mine.

So what's the motivation for leading as Jesus calls us to lead? "And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory." He is the Chief Shepherd. He's in charge. Leading according to His plan brings an unfading crown of glory. Leading for shameful

gain or control is seeking my own glory. Nothing good comes from seeking my own glory. But seeking to glorify God, to honor Him, brings an unfading, eternal crown of glory. I will have the pleasure of knowing that my God is pleased with me for all eternity.

Truly, when I'm seeking the Lord and His glory, leading the way He calls me to lead will bring me the most joy and satisfaction. He blesses me more than I even know how to be blessed. Leading as He calls me to comes with no regret.

Vs. 5 ~ "Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders."

I am both a leader and a follower in our Kingdom Outpost, as are many people in our church. To be a good leader, I also need to be a faithful follower. I need to submit to the leadership of the church. I need to pray for the leadership of the church. The only time I should not submit is if they ask me to go against God's word. I also need to be really careful that I don't twist my preferences into some form of sin.

I'm kind of amazed and shocked by how I let my preferences make me think I was entitled to judge leaders in the past. The only way I can overcome that is by bowing in humility before the Lord and saying, "Not my will, but Yours be done."

"Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another..."

It's kind of funny and sad, but I've memorized this passage, and when I was memorizing vs. 5, I always got "Clothe yourselves with humility," but I kept forgetting the "toward one another" part. The truth is, "Humility toward men will be the only sufficient proof that our humility before God is real" (Andrew Murray).

Humility toward others is not thinking I'm way better than them, and not thinking I'm way worse than them... but actually thinking of how I can care for them! My motivation is God's love for me, not where I sit in comparison to them.

*"For 'God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.'" My Chief Shepherd opposes those who are arrogant. Why? They oppose Him. They want to believe they don't really need Him... or... on the flip side, the side of shame... they want to believe that they **SHOULDN'T** need Him. No matter who I am, what I really need is God's grace. I need the generosity of His love lavished on me because I have nothing of value without Him. I have nothing to offer without Him. He lavishes His grace on me when I'm humble before Him and toward others.*

*Let me never forget how Jesus my Chief Shepherd leads me. He cares for me. No one is forcing Him to do it. He's willing. He's not in it for what He can get from me. Seriously, what do I possibly have that He **NEEDS** from me? He's eager to lead me in love. He doesn't lord His authority over me, but gently leads me and teaches me by example. He's my motivation. Praise His name.*