**Hope in Everyday Suffering**

**Shepherding While Suffering**

**1 Peter 5:1-5**

**1 Peter 4:12-19** *- ﻿Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; but if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name. For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And if it is with difficulty that the righteous is saved, what will become of the godless man and the sinner? Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.*

3 ways the pastor serves the church through suffering

**I. God Has Called Pastors to Lead the Church**

A. Bearing witness to the sufferings of Jesus

**1** **Peter 2:21-24** *- For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth; and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously; and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.*

﻿**1 Peter 4:1-2** *- Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.*

**Luke 24:45-48** *- Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and He said to them, “Thus it is written, that the ﻿Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, and that repentance ﻿for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed ﻿in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.”*

B. Keeping their focus on the coming glory of Jesus

**Matthew 24:30-31** *- And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. And He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together His ﻿elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.*

**Matthew 25:31** *- But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne.*

**1 Peter 1:13** *- ﻿Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

**II. God Has called Pastors to Lead like a Shepherd**

“It is no accident that God has chosen to call us sheep. The behavior of sheep and human beings is similar in many ways…Sheep do not just take care of themselves as some might suppose. They require more than any other class of livestock, endless attention and meticulous care.” (W. Phillip Keller)

**John 21:15-17** *- So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “Tend My lambs.” He ﻿said to him again a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you ﻿love Me?” He ﻿said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He ﻿said to him, “Shepherd My sheep.” He ﻿said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, 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, “Tend My sheep”*

A. Not out of a sense of duty, but with genuine service

**1 Peter 5:2b** *- …exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily…*

B. Not to gain temporary possessions, but with eager passion

**1 Peter 5:2c** *- …not for sordid gain, but with eagerness…*

C. Not to control others, but to demonstrate proper living

**1 Peter 5:3** *- Nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge but proving to be examples to the flock.*

“Pride is so natural to fallen man that it springs up in his heart like weeds in a watered garden or rushes by a flowing brook. It is an all-pervading sin, and smothers all things like dust in the roads or flour in the mill. Its every touch is evil as the breath of the cholera fiend, or the blast of the simoom. Pride is as hard to get rid of as charlock from the furrows or the American blight from the apple trees. If killed it revives, if buried it bursts the tomb. You may hunt down this fox and think you have destroyed it – and your very exultation is pride. None have more pride than those who dream that they have none. You may labor against vainglory till you conceive that you are humble, and the fond conceit of your humility will prove to be pride in full bloom.” (Charles Spurgeon)

**III. God Has Called Pastors to Lead with Eternity in Focus**

A. Knowing the Chief Shepherd will return

**1 Peter 5:4** *- And when the Chief Shepherd appears…*

**James 3:1** *- ﻿Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment.*

B. Living to obtain an eternal crown

**1 Peter 5:4** *- …you will receive the unfading crown of glory.*

“`What keeps them (true Shepherds) going is not the love of money or the love of power. What keeps them going is that when the Chief Shepherd comes, he is going to call us to account and say, ‘Did you feed my sheep? Were you vigilant over the souls of my sheep? Did you seek my lost sheep? Did you guard the deposit of my truth? Did you stand watch against the wolves? Did you love my flock?’ And when the Chief Shepherd comes, with him will come his everlasting reward: the unfading crown of glory. And that will be enough for the elder-shepherd.” (John Piper)

C. Pointing others to live in humility

**1 Peter 5:5** *- You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.*

“Smooth relations in the church can be preserved if the entire congregation adorns itself with humility. When believers recognize that they are creatures and sinners, they are less apt to be offended by others. Humility is the oil that allows relationships in the church to run smoothly and lovingly. Pride gets upset when another does not follow our own suggestions.” (Thomas R. Schreiner, [1, 2 Peter, Jude](https://ref.ly/res/LLS%3ANAC37/2019-11-27T22%3A04%3A50Z/874541?len=365), vol. 37, The New American Commentary. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2003, 238)

**James 4:6** *- But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, “God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.*