

“Anchored” *The Book of 1 Peter*
Class Notes
Session 28

1 Peter 5.1-5 If disciples are going to stand up to the challenges of our culture...as well as deepen our spiritual maturity that empowers such living...we must commit ourselves to the kind of lifestyle that leads toward spiritual depth and strength.

A church community that is undergoing trials and persecutions needs strong, faithful leadership and obedient members.

As both work together and support one another, the church is equipped and strengthened.

(1-2): The Organization of the Body of Christ...Caring Leaders.

πρεσβύτερος (*presbutērōs*)...“Elder” (Spiritual authority)

ποιμαίνω (*poimainō*)... Lit, “To Feed” “Care” (As a shepherd with sheep)

ἐπισκοπέω (*episkopēō*)...“To Oversee, look diligently”

In *v.2*, the role of the elders is now explained. They are like shepherds with their sheep.

Just as Jesus was a “Shepherd” *John 10.11, 14*

The term, “God’s flock” reminds these elders that:

“...the congregation does not belong to them. It is God’s church, and they are given the privilege and responsibility of shepherding it. The [Greek] verb *poimainō*, “shepherd,” is used in Acts 20:28 to describe the responsibility of the elders in the church. We are also reminded of Jesus’ words to Peter in John 21:16, where Jesus exhorted Peter to “shepherd my sheep” (literal translation). Luther rightly argues that we shepherd God’s flock by preaching the gospel...As God’s shepherds and leaders they are to oversee the church and superintend it.”¹

(v.3): The word, “domineering” ... *kataklyrieuontes*... Reflects the image of strong person ruling over one who is weak (**Matthew 20.25; Mark 10.42; Acts 19.16**).”

Godly leaders do not push God’s people...they lead them by their examples of spiritually mature character....They are “Under-shepherds.”

(v.4): For the “Under shepherds” ...The motivation and reminder...The Chief Shepherd will give the “*Crown of glory!* An honor granted for victory!

This crown is “unfading”... a symbol of salvation.

(v.5): Faithful Members. Peter now addresses the *younger* members of the church, admonishing them to listen to and honor their elders.

ὑποτάσσω (*hypotasso*)... “To live under the order of...”

¹ D.A. Carson, R.T. France, J.A. Motyer, and G.J. Wenham (Eds.). *New Bible Commentary* (Downers Grove, Illinois: Inter-Varsity Press, 1994).

Both leaders *and* followers must be committed to Humility
... ἐγκομβόομαι (*ēgkōmbōōmai*)... “To wrap up” “Gird oneself”

As with all things...Jesus is the model! Jesus is the Chief Shepherd!

For the Elders...In humility...Seeking to emulate and please the Chief Shepherd...they are servants, not dictators!

When the church community comes under the authority of their leaders...with humility...seeking to please Jesus...the church can stand against any outside or inside force that seeks to destroy it!

“Peter addresses both the elders and the younger members of the churches with the following words: “All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, ‘God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.’” Whether leader or laity, whether old or young, Christians are to develop a deferential and humble attitude toward one another...they are to respect one another mutually.”²

1 Peter 5.6-11 Peter continues to exhort the church to be a community marked by humility.

Humility means being teachable, willing to learn and be open to receiving from another.

Since God gives His grace to the *humble*...God’s people should humble themselves under “the mighty hand of God” ... κραταιός (*krataios*)... “Strength” ... χεῖρ (*cheir*)... “Hand” (Any part)

This expression is...

“...associated particularly with God’s delivering Israel out of Egypt...The image of a mighty hand emphasizes the power of God...Those who humble themselves before the Lord will be exalted. The theme that the humble will be exalted can be traced back to the teaching of Jesus (Matt 23:12; Luke 14:11; 18:14), and there is no reason to doubt that Peter recalled the teaching of his Lord here.”³

(v.7): Believers are to “cast” our anxieties... ἐπιρίπτω (*epiriptō*)... “To throw” “Hurl.” *Psalm 55.22*

“The true Christian attitude is not negative self-abandonment or resignation, but involves as the expression of one’s self-humbling the positive entrusting of oneself and one’s troubles to God...The passage recalls, and probably depends on, the community’s remembrance of our Lord’s advice (Mt. 6:25–34) not to be worried or anxious since God is aware of our needs....”⁴

Matthew 6.25, 33-34

Going Forward:

- Where do you need God’s “mighty hand” in your life right now?
- What anxiety do you need to “hurl” at Jesus?

² Scot McKnight. *The NIV Application Commentary: 1 Peter*. (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Kindle Edition).

³ Ibid.

⁴ J. N. D. Kelly. *The Epistles of Peter and of Jude* (London: Continuum, 1969).