

A Practical Study of 1 PETER:
Practice for Suffering Saints
“How Suffering Fits in the Father’s Plan”

Key Verse: 1 Peter 5:10

“But the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, shall himself make you complete, shall establish you, shall make you strong, shall ground you as on a foundation.”

Pattern Number Eleven – There are Laws for Leadership – 1 Peter 5:1-4

Key Verses 5:2, 3

We move into this last chapter of 1 Peter. It’s almost like it’s a fitting capstone to the whole thing.

It’s kind of like we move from SALVATION, to learning our lessons of SUBMISSION, to learning what it is to SUFFER as God works.

What happens in the process that’s normal, for a believer?

1. Well first, he comes to know Christ. He experiences the new birth. He learns that he has an inheritance, that he's protected by the power of God.
2. Then secondly, he begins to recognize that he has a new authority in his life and he must be willing to be submissive to that authority to make any progress at all, spiritually.
3. Having learned that lesson, then the next lesson comes—suffering is part of the deal too.

Luke 9:23

If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me.

There's going to be tough times. There's going to be hard times. God works that all together.

Now why does all of that happen? What's the reason for all of this work going on?

Not so that you can sit around and just salivate with all of the truths of the Word of God. But so that you can rise up and take the place of the leaders in the body of Christ.

God expects you not to be sitting around as little babies, waiting for your diapers to be changed, but to begin to grow and develop and take over.

One of my classes in doctoral studies this summer was on discipleship and I was deeply convicted over the quality, personal time I'm spending with individuals. So I came back and started doing it. And I feel like I'm in hog heaven.

Just taking individuals in whom I can instill the vision and get them productive and get them going.

Paul told young Timothy:

2 Timothy 2:22

These things you've heard of me, commit thou to faithful men who shall be able to teach others also.

There's a breakdown in the body of Christ. Some of you sitting here on these chairs have been Christians for 20/25 years. How many guys are you discipling? How many people are following in your footsteps? That's where the rubber meets the road, if you want to know it.

It's really, who are you involved with? Are you just content to continue selfishly to exist on the food from the Word of God that you get?

I hope it convicts you like it did me in class. It made me realize that I'm a bunch of "sound and fury" signifying nothing if I'm not marking some individual lives and spending time with them.

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I know I shared with you the other morning, I had the privilege of leading the leading agnostic in our Hide-a-way congregation to the Lord. It was a glorious experience, here just a few months ago. I'm meeting with him every Wednesday morning for an hour. He's memorized 3 verses in the scripture and I've got him reading through the one year Bible. It's tough for him to get away from me. Somebody asked him the other day if he couldn't help on a job and he said "No, Don's got me too busy to do anything else." That's right. I do.

I see that old Englishman really beginning to make a mark on some people in that community. And I just know that as I continue to invest this hour that nobody else knows about, a week, it's going begin to bring forth fruit in that community. And there are many, many of us who are believers that need to be put on a guilt trip for the fact that there isn't anybody following in our steps. There isn't anybody we're really spending quality time with in order to develop them and to instill within them our vision.

Peter moves now from SALVATION, SUBMISSION and SUFFERING to LEADERSHIP! The cry of the hour!

Walt Disney said two weeks before he died, "The greatest need in the world today is for dedicated leadership."

I'm going to say the same thing about the body of Christ. The greatest thing that's needed in the body of Christ today is for dedicated leadership—people who are willing to pay the price

to make things happen.

You know, you can actually take every one of these studies we've looked at and their building for the pentacle. They're building toward leadership.

1. Don't Get Shook, God's Got the Controls
2. Get Tough and Start Growing
3. You are Part of the Establishment—you're related with each other.
4. Submit to Authority
5. Follow your Coach—the Lord Jesus
6. Get your marriage on the right track where “One + One = One”
7. Life Can Be Beautiful When I Walk in the Spirit Rather than in the Flesh
8. The Right Game Plan—I'm a person who's concentrating on “being” rather than “saying”
9. What You Plant is What You Pick—when I live in the Spirit, God is going to use me

10. Keep a Good Attitude—no matter what comes down the pike, keep on hanging on knowing God's using it to mold you into the image of His Son

Now TURN AROUND and take those same hurts and those same pains and launch it into the life of somebody else!

Some of you that are sitting who have lost your jobs, turn around and find some other guy who's lost theirs and get together in a Bible study and start ministering to them from the Word of God.

Some of you who are sitting who are workaholics, turn around and find some other workaholics and help them rearrange their priorities so you both get your act together.

Some of you that are sitting here that are single, find some other singles and begin to invest quality time in their lives. It will bring healing to you!

Some of you that have experienced the trauma of divorce and the hurt of abandonment, find some others and start investing in their lives. God will use you!

That's the way He forges a ministry. All these other things are just a prelude for what we're talking about right now. And that is, go on! Become a leader.

I cannot think of any other day when I have been more fearful in my 55 years than I am now. Many of the great ones are

dying off and we've got some caster milk toast wimps who are coming up who don't even know what it is to sacrificially give and to sacrificially become the leaders for tomorrow.

Oswald Sanders in his book *Spiritual Leadership* put it this way:

Bringle was one of the truly great leaders of the Salvation Army. A man of scholarship as well as of singular spiritual power. He outlined the road to spiritual authority and leadership in challenging words: "It is not won by promotion, but by many prayers and tears. It is obtained by confessions of sin and much heart searching and humbling before God. By self-surrender, a courageous sacrifice of every idol, a bold, deathless, uncompromising and uncomplaining embracing of the Cross and by an eternal unfaltering looking unto Jesus crucified. It is not gained by seeking great things for ourselves, but rather, like Paul, by counting those things which are gain to be as a loss for Christ. That is a great price but it must be unflinchingly paid by Him who would be not nearly a nominal but a real spiritual leader of men. A leader whose power is recognized and felt in heaven, on earth and in hell itself.

(source unknown)

He goes on to make one further statement when he says:

True greatness, true leadership, is achieved not by reducing men to one's service, but in giving oneself in selfless service to them. And this is never done without cost. It involves drinking

a bitter cup and experiencing a painful baptism of suffering. The true spiritual leader is concerned infinitely more with the service he can render God and his fellowmen than what the benefits are [from the service].

(source unknown)

I was reading Paul Harvey back a number of years ago when he talked about President Nixon becoming the president of the United States.

This is what Paul Harvey says about the presidency:

Mr. Nixon's new shoes are bigger than his feet. No disrespect is meant. No man ever stepped into those shoes and found them to fit right off because never in the history of America have we elected a man that size. We elect men of our own size then one of two things happen. The man grows until he matches the magnitude of his responsibility, he grows into those shoes, or else he remains a little man and splashes around conspicuously until folks feel sorry for him and tell him to go get some shoes that fit him.

(source unknown)

That says it. We've got a bunch of Christians that are splashing around in shoes that are too big for them because they're not willing to make the commitment that's involved in being spiritual leaders.

None of this sitting on these chairs have the right to say that we're excused from spiritual leadership and the responsibility

to be deeply and intimately involved in the lives of other people.

You know, I'm not preaching. I am sharing. Because I have lived by the philosophy the last 10 or 12 years in the ministry that to teach 200 Bible classes a year and to get on the stool and plug in for 2 or 3 hours a day during the whole 9 months, is enough for me. And I realize that's a lousy excuse. That is over and above what I need to be doing. My primary function is to be investing myself significantly in the lives of men who will rise up and take the place and get going! And every one of us are getting fogged by that!

We've got the idea that going to church on Sunday and warming a pew and saying "Yay" to the preacher—who's sitting up there, standing up there preaching—that's all that's necessary. And that is not biblical leadership.

Do you think Peter has a right to talk about leadership? Oh boy, does he ever.

Every time you turn around, he was elected to another office. He was in a position of authority. He was considered the president of the twelve. He was very, very close. And Jesus invested a lot of personal quality time with him. Did he fail in his leadership? Oh boy, did he ever. Fell flat on his face. So when it comes to writing about leadership, this man has the scars. He knows what the price is and so he turns in his final chapter and he talks about leadership.

Verse 1.

v. 1 Elders, therefore, who are among you I am exhorting, I who am a fellow-elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, who also am a partaker of the glory which is about to be revealed,

“Elders, therefore, who are among you I am exhorting, I who am a fellow-elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, who also am a partaker of the glory which is about to be revealed,”

You see, what Peter has done is he picks specific groups and he focuses on them in his letter. We have seen him talk to the husbands. We’ve seen him talk to the wives. We’ve seen him talk to the wives. We’ve seen him talk to servants. We’ve seen him talk over and over again to different groups of individuals.

And now he’s speaking to elders. Now this does not mean old people. This refers to an office in the church. These men learned what it was to invest in lives—significantly in others. And when they left, they left it in the hands of elders who in fact were trained to teach others also. So they did spend time themselves with others.

Now, Peter begins these exhortations with **THREE CREDENTIALS**.

1. The first credential is “I who am a fellow-elder”—this is an elder speaking to elders. Or you could put it this way: this is a leader speaking to potential leaders. That’s his first credential.
2. The second one: “[he is] a witness of the sufferings of Christ.” Do you think that was easy to write about? You see, he felt like he did it. He felt like he was the guy responsible for the “sufferings of Christ” because of his denial.

But he says, as a leader I “was a witness of the sufferings of Christ.”

3. Third, “who also am a partaker of the glory which is about to be revealed.”

He’s saying, hey look. I’m not only an elder with the rest of you, I’ve not only witnessed the suffering of Christ, but I can tell you something—I am a partaker of what’s about to happen and that is the glory of Christ.

So these are his credentials. These are the things you write on his resume before he starts to get into the charge, that actually needs to be given.

Rees, when he talks about this first verse, he says this—what a dramatic change in the individual:

A fellow elder, that from Peter who once peacocked his way to the self-chosen eminence for which he boasted to the Master that other apostles might all run away and forsake their leader, but not he. A fellow elder, just one of the brothers. And as such, carrying out the commission he received from his forgiving, restoring Lord, when you have turned again, strengthen your brethren. Strengthen them Peter by telling them just what I am telling you. Tend the flock of God. Tell them these things. That is, have a shepherd's heart and do a shepherd's work. In any case, you cannot shepherd them without love and loving care, you cannot shepherd them without feeding them. You cannot shepherd them without training them. You cannot shepherd them without healing their wounds, watching over their strayings, and guarding against their wolfish enemies. And surely you cannot shepherd them without praying for them.
(source unknown)

There's the credentials of a man who now is going to exhort.

Now we turn to verse 2. And in verses 2 and 3, you're going to have the LAWS OF LEADERSHIP.

Here they are.

v. 2 tend (shepherd) the flock of God which is among you, not by compulsion, but willingly, according to God; not in fondness for dishonest gain, but freely;

“tend (shepherd) the flock of God which is among you, not by compulsion, but willingly, according to God; not in fondness for dishonest gain, but freely;”

What I have found in this verse and in verse 3 are the LAWS OF LEADERSHIP. We’re going to go on a step further. We need to recognize what our responsibility is in leadership.

They’re going to refer, first of all, to the action of a leader.

What are we supposed to do?

Law #1—ACTION: “tend [shepherd] the flock of God which is among you.”

As a Christian, it’s not just the preacher’s responsibility to tend to the needs of the flock! To shepherd the flock—that’s the needs of all of us. And he turns to these elders in this community, or to wherever this letter is going. And he says, your first law of leadership is to take care of the Christians.

Now, do you have any idea where that statement came from?

You see, that statement came from John 21 when the resurrected Christ told him, after he said he loved Him, to “feed my sheep.”

“Tend...the flock of God.”

Do you got any sheep you’re tending? You got any sheep that

you're shepherding? That you're caring for? That you're ministering to?

Jeremiah 3:1, 4 are really serious verses.

Jeremiah 3:1, 4

“Woah be unto you, you shepherds, who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture” sayeth the Lord. “And I will set up shepherds over them who shall feed them and they fear no more or be dismayed. Neither shall they be lacking” sayeth the Lord.

Boy there are some people that are going to have to face some horrendous things at the Judgment Seat of Christ for the people they've scattered—for some of the things they've done and the conduct in the flock of God. You see, the responsibility of a believer who's gotten ahold of these truths is to be positive and affirming and number one, his action ought to be caring for the needs of the flock.

I think the hardest thing that I have in my ministry, if I have to confess to you, is the fact that I am an absent pastor of two flocks of sheep. And when I am this far away from both of those flocks, I feel a horrendous responsibility and guilt. Simply because, oftentimes, I listen to people who tell me I'm failing in my tending ministry. And I ought not be paying any attention to that.

That is the responsibility of the flock to tend the flock, and to be leaders who are trained up to take that responsibility. God has gifted me in feeding the flock, then it's my responsibility to see to it that I spend my time doing that.

And think probably the hardest thing I have to face is people who are critical along this line. Because I really want to please. I really want to do the right thing. But both churches are too big for me in order to handle that plus all the teaching ministry on the road and everything else that's involved in our ministry. It's impossible.

And if God doesn't bring some people who are going to get serious and begin to "tend...the flock of God" then I've got to turn it over to somebody who will, because we just cannot continue.

And maybe your pastor, if he were sitting here, would say exactly the same thing. The hardest thing he has to do is to find time in the study to get ready to feed you and to nourish you and to care for you, and still he's feeling the horrendous pressure of the ministry and the responsibilities of all the things that you ought to be doing for him and taking care of.

Here Peter says right out of the box: "tend (shepherd) the flock of God which is among you."

It's people being involved in the lives of other people. You pray God for that!

Now, I know you're asking "How do you tend?" What does he mean? Well how does the shepherd tend the sheep? He leads them doesn't he? He guides them and He provides for them. And basically, that's all tending is. You lead them, you guide them, and you provide for them that which they need to be sustained.

Now, another way we could say that is that we bear one another's burdens.

Remember what Paul said to that "true yoke" fellow in Philippians 4. There were two fussing women in Philippi—Euodia and Syntyche. I call them "Euoderus" and "Soontouche." There they are. One of them is the chairman of the women's association, the other is a soprano in the choir. And they've really gotten into it. And the feathers are flying in Philippi! It all goes together. He says:

Philippians 4:3

True you fellow [WHAT?] assist these women...

I'm traveling and preaching and teaching, I can't be there. Y'all settle that conflict with those girls! They've assisted us in many ways and now they're fighting with each other. Tell them to get their act together—settle their differences—get on with what needs to be done.

If you're tending other people, you're following the 3 E's:

1. you are EXHORTING them,
2. you are ENCOURAGING them, and
3. you are an EXAMPLE to them.

Those 3 things going together, you start to “tend...the flock of God” that’s around you. You’re not pulling this kind of business that you’re superior or self-righteous or any of that stuff. You’re simply functioning in the body of Christ and exhorting your brothers and sisters in the Word of God. You’re encouraging them when they’re having a rough time and you’re being an example to them of what a real Christian is. And when you do those things, you’re fulfilling law #1. You ARE a person by action who’s being involved in taking leadership responsibility.

Smith says:

St. Peter’s words are evidently a reminiscence of St. Paul’s to the elders of the church of Ephesus. “Take heed therefore unto yourselves and to all the flock over which the Holy Ghost has made you overseers, to feed the church of God which He hath purchased with His own blood.” By both the apostles the same word is here used “feed or tend the flock” and both also speak of oversight. What are then the special duties of elders? To lead their people into green pastures of the Word of God, beside the quiet waters of eternal truth, to guard them against the poisonous weeds of error which spring up almost everywhere, to look after them that they do not wander from

the fold and become the prey of the lion or the wolf and to go before them in every step, setting an example of obedience to the voice of the Chief Shepherd.

(source unknown)

That's leadership.

2. Secondly, Law #2: "not by compulsion, but willingly, according to God."

Whereas the first law focuses on ACTION, the second one focuses on ATTITUDE.

Doesn't it just bless you and make your day when you ask somebody to do something and they say "Oh man, I hate it that you caught me but since you did, alright! Since you can't get anybody else take it, I'll do it!" Boy, doesn't that just give you warm fuzzies all over? It makes you so excited about the future of that situation. Somebody felt like they had to do. Maybe it's teaching a Sunday school class? Maybe it's helping a youth group? It was calling a hospital, doing something. He said it's:

"not by compulsion, but willingly, according to God."

What affects your attitude in the realm of leadership?

Three P's:

1. it's a PRIVILEGE,

2. there's POSITIBILITIES, and
3. you're going to get PLEASURE from it.

That ought to give you the right attitude.

1. It's a PRIVILEGE to serve God—don't ever forget it. None of us are indispensable.

Promotion comes neither from the east nor from the west nor from the south. God is a judge. He puts down one and sets up another. If His hand of blessing is upon you and He's using you, thank God for it! That's the greatest privilege in the world and don't stoop to be a king.

2. Secondly, think of the POSIBILITIES—of how you can touch lives by the fact that you have a place of leadership and an opportunity.

Oh how I thank God for a Baptist revival when I was 6 years old, when I received Jesus as my Savior! How I thank God for someone who cared enough to pay my way to camp when I was 12 so I could make a decision of commitment! How I thank God for a dear couple who let us have the run of their house during high school years when I was really out in left field, to tell me they loved me! And those people had no idea of what they were doing in preparing me for a ministry that God had.

What possibilities there are and what pleasure you get back when you receive words of affirmation and encouragement from what you have done faithfully to invest in the lives of others! It just makes you goose-bumpily all over when you read some of these letters and hear some of these statements of things that happen.

Well if you get an opportunity for service, don't come around with this grudging kind of compulsion kind of thing. Be a person who's so excited and so willing and so ready to serve.

Have you noticed that Peter kind of grabs on attitudes when it comes to functioning in the body of Christ? Remember what he said last night when we were talking about, in 1 Peter 4:9?

1 Peter 4:9

Be hospitable to one another without complaining.

You see, the attitude has a whole lot to do with it in the realm of leadership because it reveals where your heart is. If you're grudgingly, compulsive, it's necessary—you don't have the love of Jesus. Just don't tell them you're going to do it. You aren't ready. If you don't have the vision and the excitement and the thrill, please tell them you don't want to because we've got enough losers like that! Who are occupying space and going through the motions without any commitment!

If you can't get excited about it then pray that God will send somebody that can! And that we'll function in a similar way.

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You know, when God the Father came to Jesus and said “Hey, I want You to go on a mission that’s going to cost Your life.” He didn’t whine and say “Oh no!” He left the realms of glory, He humbled Himself, became obedient unto death. He even went to the death at the cross. Agonizing in the moment of His weakness is the only time you see human frailty come forth when He says “Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me. Nevertheless, [I’m a finisher] not my will but yours be done.” And he walked on to Calvary.

Now one of the things that kind of got me today was as I was reading this afternoon in Philippians 2, I realized in that particular chapter, of 4 great leaders—if you want something to follow.

1. JESUS CHRIST is the first one.

We’re told to let His mind be our mind. He emptied Himself, took the form of a servant.

2. The second one is PAUL.

Verse 17 says: “If my life is poured out as upon a sacrifice in service of your faith, I join and rejoice with you always.” He’s saying, if I’m spent as a sacrifice for Your faith, it makes me excited!

3. Third, TIMOTHY.

Verses 22-23: “I don’t have anybody like Timothy who is genuinely concerned about you. Everybody seems to be concerned about their own interests, but not Timothy. He served with me as a son with a father! That’s why I’m sending Timothy.”

You see, Paul invested that in his life. The man was now ready to take on responsibility with another flock.

4. The last one is EPAPHRODITUS.

I love him. Verse 30. He’s just a businessman that already scheduled to take the offer to Paul in Rome and ended up teaching Bible classes there until he nearly died of exhaustion. So in verse 30 it says “He risked his life for the gospel of Jesus Christ.”

Those are the kind of people you want to find, you want to hang around. They’re the real leaders.

What’s your ACTION?

“Tend...the flock of God!”

What’s your ATTITUDE?

“not under compulsion.”

Now, law #3:

3. “not in fondness for dishonest gain, but freely”—I put the word ACCOUNTING.

You know every one of the problems we’ve had these two years in the body of Christ with all of this lousy press we’re getting, would have been solved if there’d been ACCOUNTABILITY.

If there had been accountability to aboard over them, or an accountability fiscally—in being members of the Evangelical Counsel for Financial Accountability—that would have all been solved.

The girls in our office right now dread the fact that our year-end was June 30th and David’s sitting right here, wondered if he was going to get to come to family camp because he’s doing all of our books. Why? The auditors are coming. Because we’re members of the Evangelical Counsel for Financial Accountability, those records have got to be all ready.

Coopers and Lybrand always sends down a new graduate, you know. And boy they want to know everything. They really work us over. But we pass with flying colors.

David got a great compliment last summer. It was the finest set of books they’d seen in a long, long while. And so we do try to be very careful about that.

But you see here, you've got somebody that's in leadership. He's gotten fond of money and of dishonest gain. And that's not credible leadership for a believer who's walking with God, to be like that.

1 Timothy 6:17, 18, he tells us those who have the gift of leadership to be worthy of respect and of adequate salary, particularly if they work hard at their preaching and teaching.

Scriptural principle says "thou shalt not muzzle the ox which treads out the corn and the laborer is worthy of his hire."

It's got to be balanced. And couple that with 1 Timothy 6:5-8. Here [Paul] says:

1 Timothy 6:5-8

These men who argue, their minds warped by sin don't know how to tell the truth. To them the gospel is just a means of making money. Keep away from them. Do you want to be truly rich, you already are if you are happy and good. After all, we didn't bring any money with us when we came into the world and we can't carry away a single penny when we die so we should be well satisfied without money if we have enough food and clothing.

Principle #3: Don't get side-tracked in fiscal matters.

And our fourth one, and final one is in verse 3.

v. 3 nor as lording it over (domineering) the portions of the flock assigned to you, but being examples to the flock.

“nor as lording it over (domineering) the portions of the flock assigned to you, but being examples to the flock.”

Whereas we’ve talked about ACTION and ATTITUDE and ACCOUNTABILITY, now we’re talking about:

AUTHORITY.

You have no right to exercise authority over somebody else until you have learned to live under authority comfortably.

The big problems a lot of time, in church leadership is we’ve got individuals who are on an ego trip. They want to pitch, catch, bat and manage—the whole nine yards. And everybody else is there to serve them and their interests.

And when you run into that it’s miserable! Boy, thank God that I’m not just dependent upon one situation where I’ve got to be happy and satisfied.

It’s horrendous what happens to some of these young men who come out of seminary and they get one man who’s the chairman of the board and the flock who’s out to get him!

Well-Intentioned Dragons is a good book. It describes them real well. And they eat them up and send them on their way

and they're discouraged and they go back to sell insurance and real estate. And they had the calling of God on them!

You've got a young man of God serving in your flock, you be careful when you touch the Lord's anointed. Because before the Judgment Seat of Christ, you're going to take a man who felt the call of God, went to seminary, sacrificially served for 4 years to get his Master's degree and you wiped him out.

Oh boy, there's going to be a lot of that, and a lot of conservative churches that are going to have stand and plead guilty over the fact that they have really discouraged somebody.

Well what is the problem? It is basically an authority problem. There are two times in the Bible when you see it and neither one of them are very pretty.

First of all in 3 John 9, this is what we read—John's writing this:

3 John 9-11

I sent a brief letter to the church about this but proud Diotrephes, who loved to push himself forward as the leader of the Christians there does not admit my authority over him and he refuses to listen to me. When I come I will tell you some of the things he is doing and what wicked things he is saying about me and what insulting language he is using. He not only refuses to

welcome the missionary travelers himself, but tells others not to and when they do he tries to put them out of the church. Dear friends, don't let this bad example influence you. Only follow what is good. Remember that those who do what is right prove that they are God's children and those who continue in evil prove that they are far from God.

Here's John. He exudes love and he's really gotten hurt. Somebody who exercises total leadership in the church took the authority and ran with it!

All of the hard problems in church leadership is all in the realm of authority. There's a lot of wounds and a lot of hurts right along this very line.

Do you know who the other one is? It's King Saul in the Old Testament. The man was elevated to the leadership of the land but he could never submit himself to the authority of God.

The tragedy of King Saul is he's a man who never learned to repent. He never learned to be humble. He never learned to admit that he made a mistake. He could not take instructions and follow them through, submissive to authority and complete the job!

And that's a sad, sad story. Finally, Samuel (as he confronts him with his most latest disobedience) he says "Obedience is better than sacrifice! That's what God wants!"

Out of the humble, broken, obedient heart, God is ready to bless.

Lenski is a Lutheran commentator and he says this:

Peter mentions three common sins of preachers: laziness, greed and popishness. All of which are especially objectionable in days of persecution. Peter demands voluntariness, unselfish devotion, models fitted to be patterned after.

(source unknown)

Sanders, in writing about Martin Luther said:

He was described as a man easy to approach, totally without personal vanity, so simple in his tastes that men wondered how he could sustain life on so little. Abounding in solid sense, playful humor and mirthfulness, honest as the day, transparently sincere. Added to this was his undaunted courage, inflexible conviction and passion for Christ. It is small wonder that he bound men to him with the bonds of steel.

(source unknown)

A. B. Simpson, in writing of these verses says:

If you have ever seen a shepherd in the Scottish Highlands or in some eastern country you will know something of what this means. The picture of the veteran shepherd dying with his boys around him while the wolves are howling over the plain

and the mountain and the valley. And he calls them to his side as he breathes his last. How sweetly the picture has been given to us and they bend down to hear his last words while he breathes them out, “boys, be good to the sheep.” That was the shepherd’s last thought. He knew them all by name, he had rescued them many a time. They were personally dear to him. He had risked his life for them. That is the shepherd’s spirit that loves and follows and personally tends the sheep. (source unknown)

Paul’s relationship to the church, as he could say in 2 Corinthians 11:

2 Corinthians 11:28

I’ve got the burden and the responsibility for the churches above all of the other things that are a concern to me.

In my ACTION, I tend the sheep.

In my ATTITUDE, I do it with pleasure and great joy because it’s a privilege to be a leader.

When it comes to my ACCOUNTABILITY, I surround me with people to whom I’m accountable and I don’t get greedy and go off the deep end.

And finally, we see here—together in this fourth and final statement—I have a proper relationship to AUTHORITY.

That's the kind of leaders the church, the body of Christ, needs!

People in action will do it instead of listening to the Word of God!

People with attitude who are positive and affirming and willing to be involved and play their part. People who are not out for what they can get out of it.

And people who've learned to be humble enough to submit themselves to authority.

Verse 4—our last verse.

v. 4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you shall receive the unfading crown of glory.

“And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you shall receive the unfading crown of glory.”

The CREDENTIALS, the CHARGE and now the CROWN of leadership:

“the unfading crown of glory.”

You see, Jesus Christ is the “Chief Shepherd.” And it's not a question of IF He's going to appear, it's just a matter of WHEN He's coming.

And when He comes, He's bringing His reward with Him. And His rewards are FIVE in number:

1. the crown of life to those who have suffered and triumphed in their suffering—James 1,
2. the incorruptible crown for PERSONAL DISCIPLINE—1 Corinthians 9
3. the crown of REJOICING for being a good witness—1 Thessalonians 2 and Philippians 4,
4. the crown of RIGHTEOUSNESS for loving His appearing—2 Timothy 4:8 and then
5. “the crown of GLORY” here in 1 Peter 5.

What kind of a Christian are you? What kind of a leader are you?

The Word of God tells us to “work out our own salvation with fear and trembling for it is God who is working in us, both to the willing and doing of his good pleasure” (Philippians 2:12-13).

Is He working in you? And is He working out some of these things we've talked about.

Can I ask you another question? Are you reaching out to the lost? How many people are you deeply involved in their lives,

who are not Christians? How many people in the body of Christ are you deeply involved in their lives, in discipling and helping them grow in their Christian lives? How many people today who can say this last year I became a Christian because you were there?

You know, that's where it really is. I think sometimes in our Bible churches and our conservative fellowships, we're trying to experience what God has intended for heaven. I really do.

We're sitting down and we're visiting with the saints and we have showers and suppers and socials and it's all without getting at the primary responsibility!

Some people keep telling me I need to stop and smell the roses. And I tell them listen, that's designed for eternity. I'm a man on a mission. And I'm going to have eternity to sit down and talk to you as my brother and sister in Christ. But I don't have a lot of time now because I'm being called to some sheep who are hurt or caught in the thorns, then forgive me! I'll visit with you when we get there and we can revel in glory together! But right now that's not top priority as far as he's concerned.

I don't know. Some of you are sitting and you're saying "We're going to let the pastor do it! He's trained to do it! It's his job to."

Test your activities and if you're too busy to touch lives, you've got fouled up priorities I'll tell you that.

The number one mission and work of God is to touch lives with the gospel and then disciple them!

How much of your daily life, right now, is designed for your church friends? I'm afraid we're clicking it up and getting comfortable. And that's happening.

We even take these young believers who've got a whole network of people who aren't Christians and we pull them out of their group and we put them in a brand new environment. We surround them with program and Christian brothers and sisters and pretty soon they wake up and they say "What happened to my other friends?!"

We took them out of their environment where we could have evangelized them!

What did Jesus do with Matthew? Matthew says, "Boy Lord, this is wonderful. I tell you what, I've got a whole host of factory rejects who are in the tax collector business. How about coming to my house for dinner and talking to the whole group?"

Did Jesus turn him down? No, He was there and He was involved! Because that's where it is.

What was He accused of? He spent all of His time with harlots and sinners and tax collectors. Because He was one? No! He came not to heal the righteous but deal with the sinner, to

help him come to know Him personally.

The greatest need of our day is dedicated leadership.

Forgive me for quoting Napoleon Hill again from *Think and Grow Rich*, and don't get the idea that I'm greedy just because I quoted twice from a guy who's a successful businessman. It just happens that the principles that he gives really hit your inside track. Listen. Here he says these are the laws of leadership:

Law one—unwavering courage based upon the knowledge of self and of one's occupation. No follower wishes to be dominated by a leader who lacks self-confidence and courage. No intelligent follower will be dominated by a such a leader very long.

Law two—self-control. The man who cannot control himself cannot control others. Self-control sets a mighty example for one's followers, which the more intelligent will emulate.

Law three—a keen sense of justice. Without a sense of fairness and justice, no leader can command and retain the respect of his followers.

Law four—definiteness of decision. The man who wavers in his decisions shows that he is not sure of himself and cannot lead others successfully.

Law five—definiteness of plans. Successful leaders must plan

his work and work his plan. A leader who moves by guesswork without practical definite plans is comparable to a ship without a rudder. Sooner or later he will land on the rocks.

Law six—the habit of doing more than you're paid for. One of the penalties of leadership is the necessity of being those who are willing on their part to do more than what is required of his followers.

Law seven—a pleasing personality. No slovenly careless person can become a successful leader. Leadership calls for respect. Followers will not respect a leader who does not grade high on all the factors of a pleasing personality.

Law eight—sympathy and understanding. The successful leader must be in sympathy with his followers. Moreover he must understand them and their problems.

Law nine—mastery of detail. [Oh do I love that one!]

Law ten—willingness to assume full responsibility.

[And on and on he goes.]

A successful leader must understand and apply the principle of cooperative effort and be able to induce his followers to do the same. Leadership calls for power and power calls for cooperation.

(source unknown)

And I'll add one more thing and this is of Jesus. If you want to be a leader, learn to be a servant. For the only way to exercise authority over others is to first learn how to creatively serve them and meet their needs.

Now out of those verses I didn't get 37 lessons, I got 6. And here they are! And I'll say them slowly even though you're starved to death. It serves you right.

Lesson #1: God expects us to multiply our ministry by training others.

God expects us to multiple our ministry by training others.

Get at it! Some of you are loaded up with the stuff to do it. Go home and find somebody with whom you can hook.

God expects us to multiple our ministry by training others.

Lesson #2: It is our responsibility to lead, guide and provide.

It is our responsibility to lead, guide and provide.

Lesson #3: We are to exhort, encourage, and be an example.

We are to exhort, encourage, and be an example.

Lesson #4: The privilege, possibilities and pleasure of leadership ought to motivate us.

The privilege, possibilities and pleasure of leadership ought to motivate us.

Lesson #5: Money can ruin your ministry.

Money can ruin your ministry.

And the last one.

Lesson #6: Authority can only be handled correctly by one who has learned to serve.

Authority can only be handled correctly by one who has learned to serve.

Father, while the disciples were clamoring over authority and who was going to be sitting on the right and on the left in the kingdom, You reminded us through them that we were to magnify servanthood. That whoever would be great among us, let him be his servant. Whoever would be chief among us, let him be the minister. Teach us how to become servant-leaders who can fulfil these divine guidelines that Peter has outlined for us. And help us to be effective in extending the gospel of Jesus Christ to the lost by multiplying our ministry in the lives of men and women with whom we are hooked up in a relationship that will produce more and more fruit. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

PATTERN NUMBER ELEVEN - THERE ARE LAWS FOR LEADERSHIP — 1 PETER 5:1-4

KEY VERSES 5:2, 3

v. 1 Elders, therefore, who are among you I am exhorting, I who am a fellow-elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, who also am a partaker of the glory which is about to be revealed,

v. 2 tend (shepherd) the flock of God which is among you, not by compulsion, but willingly, according to God; not in fondness for dishonest gain, but freely;

v. 3 nor as lording it over (domineering) the portions of the flock assigned to you, but being examples to the flock.

v. 4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you shall receive the unfading crown of glory.

NOTES

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 1 Peter 5:1-4 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What do you think Peter means by the word “elders” in verse 1?

3. What three things does Peter say about himself in verse 1?

4. What are the elders supposed to do in verse 2?

5. What does Peter mean by the statement, “lording it over the portions of the flock assigned to you” in verse 3?

6. What is the best way to lead, according to verse 3?

7. Who is the “Chief Shepherd” in verse 4?

8. What is the reward in verse 4 for being a good leader?

9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: God expects us to multiply our ministry by training others.

LESSON #2: It is our responsibility to lead, guide and provide.

LESSON #3: We are to exhort, encourage, and be an example.

LESSON #4: The privilege, possibilities, and pleasure of leadership ought to motivate us.

LESSON #5: Money can ruin your ministry.

LESSON #6: Authority can only be handled correctly by one who has learned to serve.

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