

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of April 14, 2013

This Week's Focus: In light of suffering for doing good and God's judgment upon the Church Peter exhorts the leaders (Pastor/Elders) of the church to shepherd with a spirit of humility.

This Week's Text: 1 Peter: 5:1-5

*Everything in the local church rises or falls with leadership. No matter how large or small a fellowship might be, the leaders must be Christians, each with a vital personal relationship with Christ, a loving concern for their people, and a real desire to please Jesus Christ. We lead by serving, and we serve by suffering. This is the way Jesus did it, and this is the only way that truly glorifies Him. **Warren Wiersbe***

*Over time, is it easier or harder to sustain your influence within your organization? With charisma alone, influence becomes increasingly more difficult to sustain. With character, as time passes, influence builds and requires less work to sustain. **John Maxwell***

Related Texts: James 3:1, Luke 9:28-36, 1 Timothy 3:1, Ezekiel 34:11-16, Titus 1:7-9, John 19:7-11

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What has God spoken to you about regarding the sermon?
- What is the significance of Peter calling himself a fellow elder?
- How does Peter describe himself in 1 Peter 5:1?
- What can you learn from Peter's self-description?
- What does Peter call the elders to do?
- What are some of the responsibilities of a real shepherd?
- According to 1 Peter 5:1-2 and Acts 20:17-35, Elder, Pastor and Overseer are used synonymously for the same office in the church. According to these verses what are some of the responsibilities of the Pastor?

- Pastor Lou mentioned that shepherding involves leading, protecting and feeding the flock. What responsibility does Luke 19:10 tell us?
- What does Peter expect the motivation for their shepherding to be? Reference verses 2-3.
 - What are the possible distorted motives for leadership?
 - Discuss the difference between leading by influence and leading through control and manipulation.
- What is the proper response of the flock to God’s Shepherds?
- What is the reward for elders who lead as examples for the flock?
- What does 1 Peter 5:4 say about this “crown of glory”?
 - In what ways does our future hope determine our behavior today?

Gospel Celebration:

- Jesus is the Good Shepherd who lay down His life for His sheep.
- Jesus Christ is the Great Shepherd who sought you and bought you with his blood and was victorious over sin, death and hell.
- Jesus Christ is the Chief Shepherd who lives eternally and will come again for His sheep.

Our Response:

- Examine our motives.
- Repent of pride and walk in humility.
- Lead by example.

Next Week’s Text: 1 Peter 5:5-9