



BAND of BROTHERS

SPRING SERIES 2022 – WEEK 12

1 PETER 5:1-14: Godly Shepherds and Submissive Sheep

And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

– 1 Peter 5:10-11 ESV

- **The invisible battle**

“Peter was a highly practical man who knew that theology alone was not enough to help his readers navigate the uncertain cultural waters in which they found themselves. They were drowning in a sea of competing ideologies that stood diametrically opposed to the gospel of Jesus Christ. And their status as followers of Christ made them a tempting target for all those who viewed them as a threat to the prevailing status quo.” – Ken Miller, *Devotionary™ on 1 Peter*

- The sheep were under attack
- And it was more than an **ideological battle**

*Your adversary **the devil** prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*
– 1 Peter 5:8 ESV

- Their **visible enemies** were backed by **unseen forces**
- This was a **spiritual battle**

*For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the **rulers**, against the **authorities**, against the **powers** of this world’s darkness, and against the **spiritual forces of evil** in the heavenly realms.* – Ephesians 6:12 BSB

- That’s why Peter calls for reinforcements

- **Spiritual reinforcements**
 - This is a **pastoral letter**
 - From a **shepherd** to his **sheep**
 - And now, to his **under-shepherds**
 - In order to **protect the flock**

*...elders...shepherd the flock of God that is **among you**. – 1 Peter 5:5 ESV*

Literally: in your care, under your charge

- The sheep were **under assault**
- The elders were their **protectors**

*“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep. **A hired hand will run when he sees a wolf coming**. He will abandon the sheep because they don’t belong to him and he isn’t their shepherd. And so the wolf attacks them and scatters the flock.” – John 10:11-12 NLT*

*“The hired hand runs away because **he’s working only for the money** and doesn’t really care about the sheep.” – John 10:13 NLT*

*...shepherd the flock of God that is [under your care]...**not for shameful gain, but eagerly**... – 1 Peter 5:2 ESV*

- Shepherds are to be **protectors**, not **profiteers**
- They are to...
 - ...**feed**, not **fleece**
 - ...sacrifice **themselves**, not the **sheep**
 - ...**defend**, not **desert**

This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I now consider these shepherds my enemies, and I will hold them responsible for what has happened to my flock. I will take away their right to feed the flock, and I will stop them from feeding themselves. I will rescue my flock from their mouths; the sheep will no longer be their prey. – Ezekiel 34:10 NLT

- Peter is calling out the **elders** to shepherd well

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: 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. – 1 Peter 5:1-3 ESV

elder – πρεσβύτερος (*presbyteros*)
advanced in life, an elder, a senior

a term of rank or office

- Probably a reference to both
- These were older men who led the church
- Peter was one of them
 - He was a credible witness
 - Peter is sharing his credentials
 - He has earned his stripes
 - He was an elder in the Jerusalem church
 - He was an eyewitness of Jesus' suffering
 - And he would share in the future glory

The Good Shepherd Model

not under compulsion	but willingly
out of guilt	of your own accord
or under coercion	
not for shameful gain	but eagerly
for what you can get	cheerful readiness
out of it	
not domineering over	but being examples
like the Gentiles	modeling Christ

*Jesus told them, "In this world the kings and great men lord it over their people, yet they are called 'friends of the people.' **But among you it will be different.** Those who are the greatest among you should take the lowest rank, and the leader should be like a servant. Who is more important, the one who sits at the table or the one who serves? The one who sits at the table, of course. But not here! For I am among you as one who serves."* – Luke 22:25-27 NLT

- There was a reward awaiting them
 - ...the unfading crown of glory... – vs 4
 - Their future glorification would be their crown
 - And this passage contains a series of rewards for Peter's audience

GOD'S ETERNAL PROMISES

PASSAGE	AUDIENCE	CALLING	REWARD
1 Peter 5:1-4	Elders	Shepherd selflessly	God will give you an unfading crown of glory
1 Peter 5:5a	Young people	Live submissively	God will one day exalt you

PASSAGE	AUDIENCE	CALLING	REWARD
1 Peter 5:5b-11	Everyone	Live humbly, resist the Devil, & stand firm in your faith	God will restore, strengthen, confirm and establish you

- **2 more audiences in mind**

- Young people

*...you who are younger, **be subject to the elders**... – vs 5a*

- Why is submission so important?

- You can't lead those who won't follow
- Good leadership requires humble and obedient followers

"My sheep hear my voice...and they follow me." – John 10:27 NLT

- All of you

*Clothe yourselves, all of you, with **humility** toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the **humble**. **Humble yourselves**, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you..." – vs 5b-6*

- Peter is hammering home this point

- **Be subject** [submissive] to the elders
- Clothe yourselves (plural) with **humility**
- **Humble** yourselves (plural)

Because...

*God opposes the proud but **gives grace to the humble**. – vs 5*

The lifestyle of the humble and graced

Their humility is directed toward God – show **reverence**

They cast all their cares on Him – exhibit **dependence**

They're sober-minded and watchful – remain **vigilant**

- Reverence, dependence, and vigilance – why?

Because...

Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. – 1 Peter 5:8 ESV

- **Serious and supernatural competition**

- Peter takes it to an unexpected place
- This was more than competing ideologies
- It was spiritual warfare

“...at last, the true nature of the Christians’ opposition is made clear: it is the embodiment of supernatural evil, the devil. Christians are thus involved in more than just a conflict between competing lifestyles or cultural understandings. They are involved in the final battle between good and evil, between God and the ultimate power of evil. It is for that reason that their remaining faithful to the Christian calling is invested with such great importance by the author.” – Paul J. Achtemeier, *Hermeneia*, *1 Peter*

- Peter is inviting them to join the resistance
 - Satan is their **ultimate enemy**
 - And he was out to **devour** and **destroy**
 - He preys on **the weak** and **the lost**
 - He attacks **the strays** and **the loners**

*“The thief comes only to **steal** and **kill** and **destroy**.”* – John 10:10 ESV

- Peter utilizes courtroom language
 - He is our **adversary**
adversary – αντίδικος (*antidikos*)
an opponent in a suit of law
 - He is our **accuser**
devil – διάβολος (*diabolos*)
false accuser, slanderer

- Paul uses this same word to describe unbelievers living in the last days

*You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. For people will love only themselves and their money...They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will **slander others [be devils]** and have no self-control.* – 2 Timothy 3:1, 3 NLT

- And Paul goes on to describes Satan influence all around us

Self-obsessed	Unholy
Materialistic	Unloving
Arrogant	Unforgiving
Boastful	Slandorous
Atheistic	Undisciplined
Disrespectful	Cruel
Ungrateful	Opposed to righteousness
Reckless	Pseudo-religious

- Resist him!
 - How are we to resist him when his influence is everywhere
*Resist him, **firm in your faith**.* – vs 9

Your faith in God's...

Promises

Love

Power

Provision

*...every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and which is already in the world at this time. You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because **the One in you is greater than the one in the world.** – 1 John 4:4 BSB*

- **Well worth the effort**

*And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself **restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.** To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen. – 1 Peter 5:10-11*

- God has a great reward awaiting you
- So, any suffering we endure in this life will be well worth it
- And the promise of future reward should motivate our lives in the present

*...keep on doing what is right, and trust your lives to the God who created you, **for he will never fail you.** – 1 Peter 4:19 ESV*

- **Discussion questions**

Share and discuss the greatest takeaways you've received from this study on 1 Peter.

What is it going to look like in your life to "keep doing what is right" and "trust your life to God?" What do you hear God asking you to do?

Go back and read 2 Timothy 3:1-5. What are some practical ways we can "avoid such people?" And how do we keep from becoming one of them?