Lesson 10 – 1 Peter 5:1-14 True Shepherds Model Humility
English Standard Version (ESV) Bethel Bible Resources

(1) 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. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

(5) Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. 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, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

(8) Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. 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.

(12) By Silvanus, a faithful brother as I regard him, I have written briefly to you, exhorting and declaring that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it. She who is at Babylon, who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings, and so does Mark, my son. Greet one another with the kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

Think on these things:

1) In the New Testament, churches that arose after Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension, were formed as apostles and missionaries came and preached the Gospel (good news) in the cities. When they left, they appointed "elders" to "oversee" the weekly worship gatherings. While some churches today still refer to local heads of churches as elders, many churches call them preachers, pastors, reverends, and fathers. Peter now gives them four charges:

   - **Shepherd** the flock of God that has been entrusted to you!
   - Don't serve grudgingly, under duress, but **willingly.**
   - Don't serve because it's a job, a way to make a living, but **a way to serve God energetically.**
   - Don't serve by domineering those under you, but **be an example of "serving" leadership.**

2) When a pastor is told to "shepherd" you, what do YOU expect this to mean in your life and that of your family? (Consider Psalm 23, Jeremiah 3:15; 23:4, and John 10:3-16).

   Individual perceptions. Psalms teaches that shepherds lead, guide, protect and comfort. Jeremiah points to ensuring sheep are fed and fully accounted for. John says shepherds know their sheep and the sheep hear and follow them. When danger is present, the shepherd will sacrifice himself, if necessary, to save and protect them.

3) What is a pastor's reward for honoring God through ministry? **An unfading crown of glory bestowed by Jesus Himself, the Chief Shepherd.**

4) What is the main characteristic of a healthy church discussed in vs. 5-7, and how does God show His blessing?

The main characteristic of healthy spirituality is humility (yielded and obedient service), not only in relation towards God, but to one another in the congregation. God's blessing is to exalt us with His mighty hand…at the proper time.

5) Can you share a moment when you chose to "cast your cares" upon Jesus, knowing He cares for you?

Looking for answers from among class members. Typically, they will recall an overwhelming moment in their lives where they were driven to total dependence on God for the matter.

6) Vs. 8-9 are similar in thought to Ephesians 6:10-16. What are we commanded to do here? What power or authority is "out to get you?"

Be alert and watchful for the Devil's efforts to devour us. We are to stand firm and resist him.

7) According to v. 10, who will God send to restore and strengthen you after struggling through spiritual warfare?

God promises that He, Himself, will restore, confirm, strengthen and establish us.

8) Who are Silvanus and Mark? See Acts 15:36-41. Yes, years ago they were with Paul, but now they are both with Peter in Rome.

Silas (Silvanus) replaced Barnabas as Paul's missionary partner when they sharply disagreed about taking John Mark on the 2nd Missionary Journey. John Mark was guilty of abandoning the team at the beginning of the 1st Missionary Journey. Paul later shared kindly about Mark at the end of his life. Silas served faithfully on the last two missionary journeys of Paul.

We will not ask questions about the reference to Babylon in v. 13. At the time of this letter, Babylon was deserted. In the Old Testament, Babylon represented, "a center of earthly power opposed to God" (ESV notes). Some scholars suggest reading Isaiah 13-14, Jeremiah 50-51, and Revelation 17-18 for this application.

In v.13, there is no "woman" specifically intended here, but, rather, a reference to the Church at Rome. The Church there was a bright light in a city of darkness.

Peter's messages in the final three verses are: **Stand Firm. Greet One Another. Peace to All in Christ!**

People and situations I want to pray for this week: