

Getting Started

Start your time together by reading and praying through Psalm 23.

Discussion

- What is the connection between the end of 1 Peter 4:17-19 and 5:1-5?

Read 1 Peter 5:1-5

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: ² 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; ³ not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. ⁴ 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.”

Peter addresses the elders (shepherds, overseers, pastors) with some rich motivation in 5:1 to listen to him.

1. These elders could identify with Peter as a fellow elder and as such he could provide relevant exhortation to them as spiritual leaders.
 2. Peter was able to motivate from a position of spiritual authority. He was an eyewitness of Christ’s suffering affirming his apostleship.
 3. Finally, there was the motivation of anticipation. One day these leaders would receive from the hand of Christ a reward for their service and this in turn should be a motivation to faithful service for the Lord.
- Take time to read the qualifications of an elder found in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. Which of these qualities would you like to develop more in this season of your life?
 - Based on 5:2a, what are the primary responsibilities of Elders/Pastors/Shepherds?
 - Discuss how 5:2b-3 further defines how spiritual leaders are to function within the church? There are three sets of negative and positive statements. List them below and discuss why these were included and what each looks like in real life.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.

- All believers are to follow the example of the Chief Shepherd (Jesus). Paul invited people to follow him as he followed. Christ Jesus. We are also told in Hebrews 12:1-3 to fix our eyes in Jesus. Share how you assess whether to follow another leader/believer through the filter of the example of Jesus.
- 1 Peter 5:4 speaks about receiving the crown of glory. There are at least four other crowns listed in Scripture as well. Look up these references ... 1 Cor 9:24-25; 1 Thes 2:19; 2 Tim 4:8; James 1:12, Rev 2:10. In Revelation 4:10-11, the 24 elders lay their crowns before the Throne of God in heaven. What do you think we will do with our crowns and why?
- How does 1 Peter 5:5 (*God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble*) apply to the brokenness and division that we have witnessed in our nation this past week?
How will humility help us to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace?

¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. ¹⁵ This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. ¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. (James 3:13-18)

Prayer

Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” ⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you. (James 4:6-10)

A call to prayer from Franklin Graham ...

As our nation convulses with pain, anger, and hatred, this is a moment for Christians to shine for our Lord, who is the Prince of Peace. The Bible says, “Do not let the sun go down on your anger” (Ephesians 4:26), yet each sundown is bringing with it the darkness of more violence and destruction in more cities. Scripture also tells us, “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good” (Romans 12:21). This means doing what we personally can do to right wrongs and help the hurting. It also means praying fervently to our Heavenly Father for Him to change hearts and heal our land. The One “who is in you” — Christ — “is greater than he who is in the world” (1 John 4:4). We need to pray for PEACE, because “the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God” (James 1:20). Pray for PERSPECTIVE, because “the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere” (James 3:17). Pray for PATIENCE, because of God’s “kindness and forbearance and patience” toward us all (Romans 2:4). And pray for an OUTPOURING of His wisdom and direction for our leaders and officials who are dealing with this crisis. Ask God to change hearts and heal this divide in our nation. Even on this Pentecost Sunday may we experience a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit across our nation.