

Peter's theme: 5:12. Grace in suffering, now, ch, grace in serving. Saved, sustained, serve by grace. How elders serve (deacons by implication), 1-4, youth and all, 5-9.

I. Elders, 1-4.

Shepherd → taking oversight, no lordship, by employment

1. **Be shepherds, 1** Feed, tend, guide, guard. Sheep must be protected in all weather, Gen 31:40; Often exposed to beasts and robbers; must be led to pasture and water daily; Need to heed shepherd's voice; Smaller lambs often need to be carried; Give wool to owners.

2. **Be overseers, 2.** Look out for welfare = Acts 20:28. Willing, not under compulsion eagerly (another elders' meeting?). Not for money. Always acc to will of God. God is final authority over elders.

3. **Be examples, 3.** Types. Want congregation to be like you! Applies to moral, spiritual imitation. Don't want to lord it over others. Results in unfading crown of glory. 2:25—from what we were we turned (not returned) to X as shepherd and overseer of our lives. Deacons are elders in training, then have these same goals.

II. Youth, 5a. Young people tend to want to rebel, show off, be independent, unrestricted. Be subject = upotasso = put in lower rank. Apply to deacons as well.

Younger = cong. of the elders

III. All in congregation, 5b-9.

1. **Be humble, 5b-6.** Clothe self. Tie humility on firmly and knot it. Used of slave who tied on apron to work. So wear humility as a slave's apron. Humility undesirable in culture of 1st C. But X made it a virtue, Mt 11:29, gentle and humble is something we should learn. Xnty made it a virtue. Word means lowly thinking. Attitude of mind about my truly undistinguished self which results in my promoting God in my life. Rom 12:3. Proud = showing self above others, arrogant. When compare self to others we can always find those we are superior to, ~~some~~ get proud. When compare to God then we are rightly humbled. Humble in v. 6 is **act**. Specific act with note of urgency. Results of being humble: find grace, 5, exaltation, 6.

2. **Be trusting God with the anxieties and troubles of life, 7.** Cast like clothes on donkey on Palm Sunday. Takes effort. Throw deliberately and completely (all). Why? Bec it matters to Him concerning you (pres—it always matters). Then without anxieties we can do 1 Cor. 12:25.

3. Be very alert, 8.

Sober—no dulling of senses (as wine might do). Alert=be awake=keep eyes open in our spiritual walk and warfare.

Adversary=opponent in lawsuit he is determined to win. .

Devil-slanderer. Roaring shows fierceness tho lioness

doesn't war when closing in on victim. Devil walks to trip up

our walk (1 Thes 4:1). Peripatetic, itinerant. Devour

completely our testimony. Heb. 11:29. Swallow up.

What would be Satan's will for this church, elders, deacons, youth, all? Keep eyes open.

As we walk we progress hopefully. Peter had to learn and change because of what he learned.

1. V. 1. Saw glory at transfiguration and realized future perspective impt.

2. V. 2. Was commissioned to shepherd, Jn 21:16. Shepherd my sheep.

3. V. 2 not with gain. Mark 10:28-left everything. What's in it for us?

4. V. 3-lording over. Matt. 20:25-26. Gentiles rulers lord it over. But greatest Xn is servant (diakonos). Like X, v. 28.

5. V. 5. Humility. Matt. 11:29.

6. V. 8. Keep awake in Gethsemane. Matt. 26-36-40.

7. V. 8. Devour. Matt. 26:35. I will never deny you.

Concl. Good goals for all of us whether ever chosen to be elder or deacon. We have been chosen to be like Him.

Grand Prairie / Joe Mott
elder instead / or minister