

# PREPARED TO LIVE IN VICTORY: THE RIGHT MOTIVATION OF THE LEADER

Houses of Light Church • May 27-28, 2023 • Pastor Netz Gómez

## 1 Pet. 5:2-3

**"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; <sup>3</sup> not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock."**

### I. Introduction

- A. We all have some kind of leadership which must have the right motivations whether it be in the family, the church or the community. This theme applies to moms, dads, young people, because in one way or another we are having an impact on someone, although Peter here speaks to the leaders of the church but it applies to everyone because we all influence others in one way or another.
- B. Peter tells the elders (leaders) to "**shepherd God's flock.**" We need to realize that Christians are not to be solitary followers of God but are part of the flock and answer to local shepherds. Too many people think, 'What I need is me, God and my Bible,' **we don't see this mindset anywhere in the New Testament.**
- C. It is important that he says "**among you**" because of what he said at the beginning of the letter. Peter is talking about five provinces where these Christians were in what is now Turkey.

**1 Pet. 1:1 "Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia."**

- D. This is worth noticing because any person who is a leader in a local church must focus on what God has entrusted to them with. Shepherding elders take responsibility for the flock that is among them.

### II. WHAT SHOULD MOTIVATE LEADERS

- A. What Peter is going to talk about here is what drives these leaders; What is it beneath the surface that makes a church healthy or sick? What makes Jesus to be glorified or dishonored?
- B. Peter and Paul talk to them about the standards that are required of them. In 1 Tim. 3 Paul gives certain requirements of leadership: Being blameless, husband of one wife, moderate, sensible, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, should not be drunk, not a quarrel (someone who fights a lot), not fond of money, kind and mild. He must rule his house well, he must not be a brand new convert and have non-Christians speak well of him.
  - 1. "**not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you**": A person would do something out of obligation, perhaps because they feel they have no other choice and are afraid of being punished and do not enjoy it. Neither fear nor compulsion are the right motivations to shepherd people. **The opposite of these attitudes is love and security.** You are secure that you are

loved and of the privilege that He gives you to serve His people; **you must be free to joyfully serve others.**

2. ***"not for shameful gain, but eagerly"***: The opposite of greed is contentment that shows enthusiasm for the opportunity to give ourselves to the task God has assigned us without considering the financial aspect as the most important. Material gain should not be the motivation of leaders, that is not something legitimate or correct.
  3. ***"not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock"***: Someone can lead out of pride and because they want to be recognized. The opposite of pride is humility that understands that he/she is equal to others and is fully involved in being an example..
- C. Fear, greed or pride are the wrong reasons to be in the ministry, **if that is what motivates you to be a leader you must repent or leave ministry.** If we could summarize the correct motivations such as love, security, contentment and humility we would say that it is **to be joyful in Christ. Which gives us great peace and security that we are loved in Christ and that it was He who has called us to serve. A leader with the right motivation is not obsessed with money nor has a need to control others.**
- D. All of this is very important to ministers because if you have your joy in Christ, you are glorifying Him and showing that Christ has set you free from fear, greed, and pride just as Peter said earlier:

***1 Pet. 1:14-19 "As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, <sup>15</sup> but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct... <sup>18</sup> knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot."***

- E. When you are free from the passions that you had before in your ignorance, and you are free from the vain way of living then you glorify Christ who has made you secure, satisfied and humble. **Joyful leaders in Christ build healthy churches.** A complaining and legalistic leader is not profitable for the church as the writer of Hebrews also says:

***Heb. 13:17 "Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you."***

### III. JESUS CHRIST WILL REWARD THE SHEPHERDS

***1 Pet. 5:4 "And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory."***

- A. **There is a correct way to seek the reward that comes from God and not from man.** Knowing that Jesus Himself is going to reward us is a great incentive. There is a praise that comes from God which it is right to seek:

**Rom. 2:29** *"...His praise is not from man but from God."*

- B. The reason we need this kind of incentive is because when you think about what it means to be an example to the flock the implications are vast. What this flock has been called to do in the four previous chapters is to suffer. *If they do you wrong, bless them, if you suffer according to God's will, continue doing good, do not take revenge, etc.* And these pastors should be an example because they are the most visible in the community and they are going to go through these things and that is why they need to hear these words: 'Don't worry, it doesn't matter what you have lost, you will receive the incorruptible crown of glory. This is what Jesus taught us.

**Matt. 5:11-12a** *"Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven..."*

- C. That is why we can continue to love people because we rejoice that our reward is great in heaven and that nothing we suffer for Christ's sake is in vain. So it is correct to look for this kind of reward.
- D. **"Prince of the shepherds"** Every shepherd has a Shepherd, no human shepherd is without a Shepherd which is Jesus Christ. This Prince of shepherds is the shepherd of all shepherds; **every shepherd is first a sheep.** Jesus is the main Shepherd and He is going to appear, what a glory there is in this truth. Jesus is going to come again and He is going to reveal His glory which is a prominent theme in this letter.

**1 Pet. 1:13** *"Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."*

**1 Pet. 4:13** *"But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed."*

**1 Pet. 5:1** *"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."*

- E. Part of that glory are His rewards, including the incorruptible crown of glory. The Bible tells us about 5 types of crowns that Jesus will give as rewards for different reasons:
1. **An incorruptible crown:** By leaving a disciplined life (**1 Cor. 9:25**)
  2. **A Crown of Joy:** For Evangelizing and Discipling (**1 Thess. 2:19**)
  3. **A crown of righteousness:** For loving the appearing of the Lord (**2 Tim. 4:8**)
  4. **A crown of life:** For persevering in the midst of trials (**Jas 1:12; Rev. 2:10**)
  5. **A crown of glory:** For faithfully shepherding God's flock (**1 Pet. 5:4**)
- F. This crown is eternal, it is to reign with the glory of Christ and it is what we are going to obtain. This is the correct motivation and let's see what it says next:

**1 Pet. 5:5 “...Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”**

- G. If you want His grace you must humble yourself because God opposes the proud.. Seeking to be rewarded by God is not prideful because we are not seeking our own self-exalting reward at the expense of others. These leaders after God's own heart not only seek rewards for themselves but also for others.
- H. Seeking God's rewards is healthy and good: because God is going to reward people who work according to His will, connected with Him. **If you do not seek these rewards that Jesus gives you are dishonoring Christ who is offering it.** Being motivated to obtain that incorruptible crown of glory is not selfish because we are including the entire flock of God so that they follow our example and our proper motivations.

#### **IV. REFLECTION QUESTIONS**

- 2. Do you consider that you exercise the leadership that you have at home, church, etc. according to the biblical standard? Explain
- 3. How are you increasing your delight in Christ to contribute to a healthy church?
- 4. Why do you think that if you did not seek the rewards that Jesus wants to give you, you would be dishonored?

#### **THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 1. Corporate Prayer Thursday, June 1st at 7:00 p.m.
- 2. Young Adult set Wednesday at 8:00 p.m.
- 3. The Introduction to the House of Prayer Course (Intro to NHOP) begins next Monday, June 5 at 7:00 p.m. Please register at [www.nhop.la](http://www.nhop.la)
- 4. 'B-Courageous' Men's Conference Saturday June 10 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The donation includes food; for men 13 years and older, the event is bilingual. Please register online or at the table outside.
- 5. Affirming your Steps in English will have an intensive course this summer. It will start Monday June 12 at 4:00 p.m. for 8 weeks. You can register at the table outside.
- 6. We will have a trip to Israel October 10-22 there are few spots left, for more information you can get a brochure at the bookstore.