

The flock of God

1 Peter 5:1-3

5 To the elders among you [*en humin*], I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: ² Be shepherds of [*poimainō*] God's flock that is under your care [among you, *en humin*], watching over them [*episkopeō*] — not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager [to serve]; ³ not lording it over [gaining mastery, *katakuriuō*] those entrusted to you [the lots, *klēros*], but being examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

1. What do we learn here about the flock?
2. What is the relationship between the elder and the flock?
3. What must the elders do? And in what manner?
4. What must the elders avoid? What might be the dangers / tendencies / pressure points?
5. What are the motivations given to the elders in this passage?

Implications:

1. How we view the Lord God
 - a. The Good Shepherd
 - i. Rescues
 - ii. Gathers
 - iii. Feeds
 - iv. Heals
 - v. Leads
 - vi. Guards/protects
 - vii. Rules/judges
2. How we view the flock
 - a. Owned by the Lord
 - b. Precious
 - c. Requires leadership
 - d. Individuals and whole
3. How we view leadership
 - a. Sheep
 - b. Under-shepherd
 - c. Patterned on the Good Shepherd
 - d. Driven by love of the Good Shepherd
4. How we view mission
 - a. Seeking the lost
 - b. Gathering from the nations
 - c. His sheep
 - d. His voice