

LIVING TODAY FOR TOMORROW...AS GOD'S LEADING ELDERS

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1 Peter 5:1-7 (Series # 8)

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1. I am Peter living today for tomorrow (v1)

- a. A fellow elder (Today)
- b. A witness of Christ's suffering (Yesterday)
- c. One who will share in the Glory to be revealed (Tomorrow)

2. Directions for elders

- a. These are also great advice for leaders in many different areas: family, work, friends, church ministry
- b. See this as advice also for who to follow

3. Advice to Elders on Living Today:

- a. What is not mentioned? Spiritual maturity. Although this is covered in the previous chapters.
- b. Be **shepherds** over the **flock** under your **care**. Peter takes seriously the instructions given to him from Jesus at the beach at the end of John's gospel "feed my sheep". (v2a)
- c. Not because you must but willingly (v2b) out of a servant heart for the Lord.
- d. Not greedy for money (v2). Be careful not to serve out of selfish ambition or because it fulfils a need but because your eager to serve. Imagine the Lord of the universe washing peoples feet.
- e. Not lording over others (v 2b). Be careful not to be bossy. How do people respond to you, do we trust and empower others?
- f. Lead by example (v 3b) not from behind.
- g. Look forward to the time the Chief Shepherd will appear (live today for tomorrow).

4. Clothe yourself with humility

- a. "Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but it is thinking of yourself less" CS Lewis.
- b. Humility is knowing the strength we have in Christ and using to lift up others rather than ourselves.

5. Above All Live Like Jesus

Key Verse... "So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honour. Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares for you." 3:8b

APPLICATION / LIFE GROUP INTERACTION

Starter: Make a list of the qualities you think make a great leader.

Read aloud 1 Peter 5:1-7 and share your thoughts on what is challenging and what is encouraging in this scripture.

The passage is directed to 'fellow elders', 'young men' and 'all'. Do you think the instructions for living relate to those who are not elders? **Brainstorm** what leadership roles the people in your group play in church, the community, their families, workplaces and friends.

Note as a group what qualities Peter lists as important for leading.

Compare the qualities of an elder with those written in your groups list at the start.

Choose two or three of these qualities to talk further about. What does Peter mean? How can we apply that to our lives today? Where else in scripture do we see this quality? What are the dangers of not having it and the benefits of having leaders with that ability?

Note in the passage the references to shepherding leadership. **Discuss together** from your experiences what shepherding leadership might mean?

Practice the memory verse together (with actions). Humility is an essential quality of a Christian. What are the groups thoughts about humility? **Read** Philippians 2:3-11.

Watch or listen to the meditative song "Fountains" by Jon Thurlow which uses the key verse 3:8 to lead your group into prayer.

PRAYER

Bring a list of your cares and anxieties before the Great Shepherd. Finish by reading psalm 23 together.