

- B. God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.
  - i. Both leaders and followers in the church are susceptible to this common pitfall: pride!
  - ii. This stands as both a warning and a promise.
- C. That you might be exalted on that Day
- D. *As you cast your cares upon Him....*

### LIVE THE STORY

*The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.*

- What kinds of problems are present in this text? Does the church family still deal with these issues today?
- What is the grace from God that is present in the text? How might these things help us overcome the problems of the text?
- Discuss: *Pastoring and pasturing the flock can only be accomplished on the road to the cross.* Why is this vital for proper leadership?
- Over what kinds of cares might I need to entrust myself to God in order to walk humbly in whatever my role in the church family?
- How did the Isaiah, Jeremiah, or Ezekiel describe the crisis that existed with regard to how shepherds and sheep interacted?
- Discuss the contrast which Scott Sauls describes in his quote (p2).
- How does Peter model the very kind of leadership he is calling these elders to?
- Discuss: *Both leaders and followers in the church are susceptible to this common pitfall: pride!* What are ways you've experienced that?
- Why is it important to remember that *to God, you are a concern?*

## Messy Makings in the Messianic Family

Jerry Cisar — October 31, 2021

Text: 1 Peter 5:1-7

### Introduction

Douglas Harink: "Does the common life and order of the messianic community correspond to and reflect the cruciform life and order of the Messiah? Or do its internal affairs more nearly mirror the envy, competition, and coercion of the wider Gentile society?"

### I. Appeal from a Witness (5:1)

- A. An Appeal
  - B. As a Fellow Elder
  - C. A witness of the sufferings of the Messiah-king.
    - i. An eye-witness
    - ii. *By sharing in the sufferings of Christ*, he bore witness to how God works in the world; he bore witness to how one lives by faith in the resurrection.
    - iii. John 21:15-19
- Pastoring and pasturing the flock can only be accomplished on the road to the cross.*
- iv. Peter bore witness to the sufferings of Christ in a way that models what true *messianic leadership* is all about.
    - a) Like Paul, Peter *bears in his body the marks of Jesus.* (Galatians 6:15-17)

- b) The source of authority is following Jesus on the way to the cross.

D. A Partaker in the Glory About to be Revealed

## II. Appeal to the Elders (5:2-4)

A. Shepherd the Flock of God

- i. One of the great crises of Israel was the lack of Shepherds to care for the flock and lead them to green pastures where they can feed.
  - a) Matthew 9:36; Mark 6:34
  - b) Ezekiel 34
  - c) Isaiah 11:6-7; 65:25
  - d) Isaiah 14:30
- ii. The contrast between Christlike shepherding and that of the world.

Eugene Peterson “[Christians] uncritically embrace the ways and means practiced by the high-profile men and women who lead large corporations, congregations, nations, and causes, people who show us how to make money, win wars, manage people, sell products, manipulate emotions, and who then write books or give lectures telling us how we can do what they are doing. But these ways and means more often than not violate the ways of Jesus. North American Christians are conspicuous for going along with whatever the culture decides is charismatic, successful, influential—whatever gets things done, whatever can gather a crowd of followers—hardly noticing that these ways and means are at odds with the clearly marked way that Jesus walked and called us to follow.”

B. Not under compulsion

C. Not for shameful gain.

D. Not Domineering

- i. “Not as those having power over them.”
- ii. Addiction to leadership and success.
  - a) *The Rise and Fall of Mars Hill*: “We have a culture of church members who would prefer a narcissist leading a church.” “Why are we not looking at the deep-seated reasons for this?”
  - b) Jeremiah 5:31
- iii. Domineering is the way of the World; Humility is the way of the Messiah. (Mark 10:42-45)

E. An unfading wreath of glory

## III. Appeal to the Family (5:5a)

A. Who are the Younger?

B. I am required to say that which I am forbidden to say.

C. Be Subject to Your Elders

- Hebrews 13:17

## IV. Appeal to Both (5:5b-7)

A. Cloth Yourselves with Humility

- i. The best training for leadership is humble following.
- ii. We have turned arrogance into a virtue. That “*it’s working*” becomes the justification of the means.

