



Lesson 45 – A Faithful Under-Shepherd

Based on the First Peter

Little mention is made in the book of Acts of the later work of the Apostle Peter. During the busy years of ministry that followed the outpouring of the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, he was among those who put forth untiring efforts to reach the Jews who came to Jerusalem to worship at the time of the annual festivals.

As the number of believers multiplied in Jerusalem and in other places visited by the messengers of the cross, the talents possessed by Peter proved of untold value to the early Christian church. The influence of his testimony concerning Jesus of Nazareth extended far and wide.

1) What had Christ commissioned him to do?

Luke 22:32 But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, _____ thy brethren.

It was after Peter had been led to self-renunciation and entire reliance upon divine power, that he received his call to act as an under shepherd. For this work, Peter's own experience of sin and suffering and repentance had prepared him. Not until he had learned his weakness, could he know the believer's need of dependence on Christ. Amid the storm of temptation, he had come to understand that man can walk safely only as in utter self-distrust he relies upon the Saviour.

2) What was asked of Peter by the seaside?

John 21:15 So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, _____ thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.

John 21:16 He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou _____ that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

John 21:17 He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, _____

Peter, tested by the thrice-repeated question, had been restored to his place among the Twelve. His work had been appointed him; he was to feed the Lord's flock. Now, converted and accepted, he was not only to seek to save those without the fold, but was to be a shepherd of the sheep.

The Saviour's manner of dealing with Peter had a lesson for him and his brethren. Although Peter had denied his Lord, the love which Jesus bore him had never faltered. And as the apostle should take up the work of ministering the word to others, he was to meet the transgressor with patience, sympathy, and forgiving love. Remembering his own weakness and failure, he was to deal with the sheep and lambs committed to his care as tenderly as Christ had dealt with him.

3) To whom is the First Epistle of Peter written?

1 Peter 1:1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

These letters were written for the districts of Asia Minor. These letters bear the impress of having been written by one in whom the sufferings of Christ and also His consolation had been made to abound; one whose entire being had been transformed by grace, and whose hope of eternal life was sure and steadfast.



- 4) How does the letter begin?
1 Peter 1:3-5 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a _____ by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance _____, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through _____ unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.
- 5) What did Peter tell them?
1 Peter 1:6-7 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your _____, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the _____ of Jesus Christ:
1 Peter 1:8-9 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye _____ him _____, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your _____, even the salvation of your souls.
- 6) Why did Peter tell them this?
1 Peter 4:7 But the _____ of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and _____ unto _____.
- 7) What same sentiment did Paul share with the Hebrews?
Hebrews 3:14 For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our _____ stedfast unto the end;

The apostle sought to teach the believers how important it is to keep the mind from wandering to forbidden themes or from spending its energies on trifling subjects. Those who would not fall a prey to Satan's devices, must guard well the avenues of the soul; they must avoid reading, seeing, or hearing that which will suggest impure thoughts. The mind must not be left to dwell at random upon every subject that the enemy of souls may suggest. The heart must be faithfully sentinelled, or evils without will awaken evils within, and the soul will wander in darkness.

- 8) What advice was given?
1 Peter 1:13 Wherefore gird up the loins of your _____, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;
1 Peter 1:14-16 As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the _____ lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, _____ holy; for I am holy.
1 Peter 1:17 ...pass the _____ of your sojourning here in fear:
1 Peter 1:19-21 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the _____ of the world, but was _____ in these last times for you, Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your _____ and _____ might be in God.
- 9) How are we to care for one another?
1 Peter 1:22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in _____ the truth through the _____ unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:
- 10) Jesus said we must be born again, How did Peter describe it?
1 Peter 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the _____ of _____, which liveth and abideth for ever.

This new birth is the result of receiving Christ as the Word of God. When by the Holy Spirit divine truths are impressed upon the heart, new conceptions are awakened, and the energies hitherto dormant are aroused to co-operate with God.



11) Who did John say Jesus was?

John 1:1-3 In the beginning was the _____, and the Word was _____ God, and the Word _____ God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

John 1:14 And the Word was made _____, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

John 1:16 And of his _____ have all we received, and grace for grace.

Thus, it had been with Peter and his fellow disciples. Christ was the revealer of truth to the world. By Him the incorruptible seed, the Word of God, was sown in the hearts of men. But many of the most precious lessons of the Great Teacher were spoken to those who did not then understand them. When, after His ascension, the Holy Spirit brought His teachings to the remembrance of the disciples, their slumbering senses awoke. The meaning of these truths flashed upon their minds as a new revelation, and truth, pure and unadulterated, made a place for itself. Then the wonderful experience of His life became theirs.

12) How permanent is our human glory?

1 Peter 1:24-25 For all flesh is as _____, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof _____ away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

13) What should we do?

1 Peter 2:1-3 Wherefore _____ all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, As newborn babes, desire the sincere _____ of the word, that ye may grow thereby: If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is _____.

Many of the believers to whom Peter addressed his letters, were living in the midst of heathen, and much depended on their remaining true to the high calling of their profession.

14) Who are we?

1 Peter 2:9-10 But ye are a chosen generation, a _____, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of _____ into his marvellous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

15) How should we act?

1 Peter 2:11-12 Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, _____ from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; Having your conversation _____ among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall _____, glorify God in the day of visitation.

16) What about obeying civil authorities?

1 Peter 2:13-16 _____ yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to _____ the ignorance of foolish men: As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the _____ of _____.

17) What about servants?

1 Peter 2:18-20 Servants, be subject to your _____ with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward. For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully. For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is _____ with God.



18) Why?

1 Peter 2:21-23 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an _____, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was _____ found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but _____ himself to him that judgeth righteously:

1 Peter 2:24-25 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose _____ ye were _____. For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now _____ unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

19) Where does true Beauty come from?

1 Peter 3:3-4 Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a _____ and quiet _____, which is in the sight of God of great price.

20) What is the most beautiful in God's eyes?

Matthew 16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and _____ me.

21) How does Revelation describe the elect?

Revelation 19:4 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, _____ and _____.

This apparel will make them beautiful and beloved here and will hereafter be their badge of admission to the palace of the King.

22) What did God promise to John?

Revelation 3:4 and they shall walk with me in white: for they are _____.

23) Will everything be puppies and roses before the second coming of Christ?

1 Peter 4:12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the _____ which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

Trial is part of the education given in the school of Christ, to purify God's children from the dross of earthliness. It is because God is leading His children that trying experiences come to them. Trials and obstacles are His chosen methods of discipline, and His appointed conditions of success

God's care for His heritage is unceasing. He suffers no affliction to come upon His children but such as is essential for their present and eternal good. He will purify His church, even as Christ purified the temple during His ministry on earth. All that He brings upon His people in test and trial comes that they may gain deeper piety and greater strength to carry forward the triumphs of the cross.

24) What advice did he give to the church elders?

1 Peter 5:2-3 _____ the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being _____ to the flock.

Those who occupy the position of under shepherds are to exercise a watchful diligence over the Lord's flock. This is not to be a dictatorial vigilance, but one that tends to encourage and strengthen and uplift. Ministry means more than sermonizing; it means earnest, personal labor. The church on earth is composed of erring men and women, who need patient, painstaking effort that they may be trained and disciplined to work with acceptance in this life, and in the future life to be crowned with glory and immortality.



25) How will this be possible?

James 3:17-18 But the _____ that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the _____ of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

26) What is great advice for everybody?

1 Peter 5:6-8 _____ yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may _____ you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring _____, walketh about, seeking whom he may _____:

Thus, Peter wrote to the believers at a time of peculiar trial to the church. Many had already become partakers of Christ's sufferings, and soon the church was to undergo a period of terrible persecution. Within a few brief years many of those who had stood as teachers and leaders in the church were to lay down their lives for the gospel. Soon grievous wolves were to enter in, not sparing the flock. But none of these things were to bring discouragement to those whose hopes were centered in Christ.

27) Should we worry?

1 Peter 5:10-11 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you _____, stablish, strengthen, settle you. To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Can you see Peter's devotion to Christ?

Would you like to be positive in impossible times?

When is the time to humble yourself?