



TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS



2019.8.25

Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. —Psalm 145:11
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. —Joshua 22:5

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

- What from Sunday's message interested you? ...made sense to you? ...confused you? ...intrigued you? ...upset you? ...encouraged you? ...and **why?**
- Review Peter's five instructions to pastors (see **red boldface text** in the **Sermon Summary**). Which part of the pastor's job description do you think would be **most difficult** to fulfill—and **why?**
Tell about a time when you observed a pastor fulfilling his role well. How did it bless the congregation?
Tell about a time when you observed a pastor fulfilling his role poorly. How did it hamper church life?
- Acts 20:28 says that "...**the Holy Spirit made you overseers**, to shepherd the church of God...", while 1 Peter 5:2 says "...shepherd the flock of God...**not under compulsion, but voluntarily**...". How do you reconcile the fact that God **appoints** someone as a pastor, yet they are to do it **voluntarily**?
What are some roles God put **you** in—yet you are to embrace and do willingly, from a whole heart?
Tell about a time when you resisted fulfilling your responsibilities with a willing, joyful heart. When you received criticism, was it of the constructive or the destructive sort?
What did you find to be most helpful in helping you joyfully embrace your God-given responsibilities?
What can you do to help your pastors flourish? **How** would you go about doing it?

Application-Challenge

- Pray for your pastors and elders.
- Pray for the church staff.
- Jump in and help where you can.

**Need some individualized shepherding?
That's what "biblical counseling" is!
Write to: counseling@tcc.org**

Sermon Summary

Key Text: 1 Peter 5:1-4

Churches face the challenge of expectations—those of the pastor and of the congregation. And we disappoint each other when we don't meet those unrealistic expectations. Fortunately, 1 Peter 5:1-4 gives us God's expectations. Notice that Peter, the leader of Jesus' apostles, humbly addresses leaders as a peer ("your fellow elder", v. 1). The terms elder, pastor and overseer can be used interchangeably; with "elder" connoting experience, wisdom and authority. To what does Peter exhort them? What is their job description as leaders in their church? "Shepherd the flock of God among you..." (v. 2). This a command, not a suggestion. An elder's primary responsibility is to shepherd the flock. A shepherd leads, feeds and protects those in his charge. That's his main job. Jesus told Peter, "Peter, if you really love me, do this one thing; lovingly tend my sheep." (John 21:15-17).

[1] Pastors should serve willingly ("...not under compulsion, but voluntarily...", v. 2). No one twisted their arm; they are of their own free will.

[2] Pastors should minister out of an inner conviction that God has called them into this ministry ("...according to the will of God...", v. 2). This isn't just a job, it is a calling. It is what I'm meant to do.

[3] Pastors should serve eagerly and unselfishly ("...not for sordid gain, but eagerly...", v. 2). The pastor's heart motivation cannot be about the money, or about advancing his ego.

[4] Pastors should model servant leader ("...not lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock...", v. 3). Biblical leadership isn't about wielding power over others; it is about serving them. Of course, Peter learned this directly from Jesus (Matthew 20:25-28). Martin Luther King Jr. said this about servant leadership: "Not everybody can be famous. But everybody can be great, because greatness is determined by service... You only need a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love."

[5] Pastors should see themselves as stewards of "those allotted to their charge" (v. 3). Who allotted them to our charge? God did—therefore we are responsible to him for how we shepherd them. Pastors aren't acquiring followers on their own; God brings people to himself. God certainly uses leaders in building his church, but it is God who causes the growth (1 Corinthians 3:3-7). Our focus should be on Jesus; he is worthy of recognition and praise.

Yet God rewards faithful followers ("...when the Chief Shepherd appears you will receive the unfading crown of glory", v. 4). Imagery from the famous Greek athletic games is found throughout the New Testament and is an apt analogy to the Christian life. Believers, like athletes, must train hard and endure hardships on the way to their reward (1 Corinthians 9:23-27). Peter says that pastors who faithfully shepherd their flocks will be rewarded when Jesus returns. Their work, their sacrifices are not made in vain. God sees and rewards. But that is true for all of us. We are all stewards of God's resources. Everything we have comes from him. And at the judgment seat of Christ how well we have managed those resources, how faithful we have been to God's will, will be evaluated and rewarded (2 Corinthians 5:10). It really does matter how we live.

Well, it is one thing to spell out a job description, it is quite another to consistently live up to it. But this is what God has called pastors too, and I want to ask you to pray for your pastors and church staff. Encourage us when we get it right, and extend grace to us when don't. Discouragement is one of the biggest reasons that pastors leave the ministry. And that discouragement is often the result of lingering criticism. And even when criticism is deserved, make sure it is delivered graciously. There is a difference between constructive criticism and destructive criticism. One attacks motives and the other ministry execution. One points the finger, and says, "How could you?" the other offers a hand and says, "How can I help. How can I be a part of the solution?" We are all in this together, and the Bible teaches that in an important sense we are all God's ministers. We have all be gifted to serve. The Great Commission to go into the world and make disciples has been given to all of us—not just to pastors. We can't do it alone. We are not meant to. But together we can make a difference.



**SOUTH WAKE
BIBLE
INSTITUTE**

**“Help the Hurting, Share the Shepherding”
Fall 2019**

- Which problems does God’s Word address?
- How do past experiences shape our lives?
- What is the source of conflict and quarrels?
- Does the Bible give hope for depression?
- When should I speak up to a struggling friend?

12-week course taught by Pastor Dan

- Experience personal growth.
- Learn how to disciple others.
- Registration is *now* open!

“Help the Hurting, Share the Shepherding”

Our churches are full of hurting people. They struggle with marriage, depression, loneliness, anxiety, anger, wayward children, and so much more. They need someone to walk beside them and help them gain biblical perspective and hope to resolve their problems. But pastors can’t do it all. Learn how people change, how to ask better questions, and how to connect the riches of Scripture to the problems of life. Your advice and conversations can be wiser and can touch the hearts of those you love.

Monday Evenings, 7–9pm / September 9—December 9, 2019

\$100 covers tuition and all books and materials

Classes held in Fuquay-Varina (at Wake Chapel Church)

For more information, go to: southwakebible.org

Register Now!

Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

"Five Question Bible Study" (see page to the left) is a simple way to study any passage. Let's use it to study Paul's transformation from vicious killer to gentle shepherd...

Monday— Paul's back-story: Galatians 1:13-14 & Acts 26:9-11

Tuesday— Paul's conversion: Acts 9:1-19

Wednesday— 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12

Thursday— Philemon 1-3, 10-18

Friday— 2 Timothy 1:1-7; 4:1-22

Saturday— ***In preparation for worshipping your risen Lord tomorrow with your church family,*** study 1 Peter 5:5-7.

Need blank copies for doing more
"Five Question Bible Study"?
e-mail: Dan.Clement.TCC@gmail.com

Bible Text: _____

Date: _____



What idea particularly strikes me from this text? [Note in which verse(s) it is found.]



What question does this text raise in my mind—and how would **this text** answer it?



What about Jesus Christ—his character and/or his redemption—relates to this text?



What action must I take as a result of this text? Be concrete and specific.



With whom will I share what I learned from this text? [and what was their response?]