

LESSON 12
1 Peter 5:1-14

“Behold, the Lord GOD will come with might,
With His arm ruling for Him.
Behold, His reward is with Him
And His recompense before Him.
Like a shepherd He will tend His flock,
In His arm He will gather the lambs
And carry them in His bosom;
He will gently lead the nursing ewes.”
(Isaiah 40:10-11)

The mighty arm of God which rules the circumstances of your life is also the shepherding arm of God drawing you close to Himself in love, protection and comfort. Relax, and tell Him you know He is able and desirous of caring for you, and that you want Him to do so.

Review your memory verses.

Memorize 1 Peter 5:6-7. (You will use these verses often and always.)

Read 1 Peter at one sitting. (Is it now like a visit with a long-treasured friend?)

Re-read 1 Peter 5:1-4.

Peter begins by saying “I exhort the elders among you” (NASB) or “I appeal ... to the elders among you” (NIV).

1. What does the phrase “the elders among you” mean?

2. What does Peter appeal to the elders to do (v. 2)?

3. Peter mentions several characteristics that should be true of leaders' shepherding. From 1 Peter 5:2-3, what are these characteristics?

4. What incentive to right shepherding is offered in verse 4?

5. Now let's get down to basics. Although an elder is one who has certain qualifications and is in a governing position in a local church, the principles in these verses (1 Peter 5:1-4) apply to *any* leadership position, especially a spiritual one. Where do *you* have an opportunity to use these principles? (Maybe it's with just one person, or maybe it's with your children, grandchildren, nieces or nephews. Think!)

6. What kind of "compulsion" might wrongly drive you to lead others?

7. What kind of "sordid gain" (1 Peter 5:2, NASB) might appeal to you? (It doesn't have to be money.)

10. Read Psalm 23. God is our Chief Shepherd. List, from Psalm 23, what God does for us and, therefore, what we are encouraged to do for others. What do you notice about God's shepherding from Isaiah 40:10-11? (This passage is on the front page of your lesson.) What kind of heart does God's shepherding show Him to have?

11. PERSONAL: Where does your shepherding need improvement? (Please write down your answer even though we won't discuss this in class.) What can you do about this?

Read 1 Peter 5:5-11.

12. Verse 5 tells us to put on humility toward one another. Verse 6 says to humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God. How do the thoughts in these two verses relate to one another?

13. From time to time we will experience anxiety in our suffering. What are we to do about it? How are you doing with this? (See 1 Peter 5:7 and Philippians 4:6.)

14. What do you know about God that encourages you to cast your anxieties on Him (v. 7)?

15. From 1 Peter 5:8-11 what observations can you make about your *fight* here in this alien environment? How will knowing each of these truths help you?

Read 1 Peter 5:12-14.

16. When Peter says in verse 14 to greet one another with a kiss of love, he may have flashed back on the scene recorded in Matthew 26:47-49. Even if a kiss is not the greeting we use, how can we apply this in our life?

17. What idea from chapter 5 is the most relevant to you at this time, and why?

18. Write out a prayer of praise (and a call for help, if you need it) in response to chapter 5.
God delights to have His children interact with Him.