

# A Shepherd's Farewell

Acts 20:17-38

PART THREE

## Introduction

- I. Past Reminders (vv17-21)
- II. Personal Reflections (vv22-27)
- III. Potential Risks (vv28-32)
- IV. Parting Ruminations (vv33-38)

### I. Potential Risks (vv28-32)

v28

#### 1. The faithful shepherd keeps careful watch over himself – *first*.

*"Pay careful attention/take heed to yourselves"* Gk *prosecho*; 'to care for; watch over.'

Two critical categories requiring steadfast, watchful care: *yourselves* and *all the flock*.

*"yourselves"* This is primary.

The work of any elder, pastor, or bishop begins here: *personal purity*.

2 Timothy 2:21

1 Timothy 4:16

Mark 13:9

Luke 21:34

2 Timothy 2:4 NASU

#### 2. The faithful shepherd *leads* the flock of God.

*"overseers"* Gk *episkopos*; 'bishop.'; 'to oversee and inspect anything.'

The three biblical designations in one office denote *authority* (bishop), *age* (elder), and *activity* (shepherd).

Hebrews 13:17

1 Peter 5:1-2

#### 3. The faithful shepherd *feeds* the flock of God.

*"and to the flock"*

***“care for/feed the church”*** Gk *poimaino*; from *poimen*, ‘shepherd.’ ‘To shepherd, tend, feed.’

John 21:15-17

“Feed my lambs” Gk *boske*; herd, tend, graze, feed. i.e., feed the young ones.

“Tend my sheep” Gk *poimaine*; ‘involves total care’; herd, tend, lead to pasture, protect from danger.

“Feed my sheep” Gk *boske*; herd, tend, graze feed. i.e., feed the older ones.

1 Peter 5:2, 3, 4

***“which he obtained with his own blood”***

Ephesians 5:25-27

**v29 - v30**

**4. The faithful shepherd keeps vigilant watch for wolves in sheep’s clothing.**

***“fierce wolves”***

1 Timothy 4:1

2 Timothy 3:13-14

“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.”

Matthew 7:15

“you will recognize them by their fruits.” Matthew 7:16

***“from among your own selves”***

Psalms 41:9

Job 19:19

Psalms 55:12-14

Psalms 55:20-22

***“speaking twisted things”*** Gk *diastrepho*; from *dia*, ‘denoting separation,’ and *strepho*, ‘to turn’

***“to draw away the disciples after them”*** Gk *apospao*; ‘to draw or pull.’

Theirs is convincing rhetoric designed to draw people away from the truth and the ways of God and toward themselves and their agenda.

**Evil desire always recruits others because its goal is always to divide. Once fractured, the church falters.**

1 Timothy 4:6

Jeremiah 20:10-12

**v31**

**5. The faithful shepherd must remain *alert*, always tending the flock of God.**

***“Therefore be alert”***

Hebrews 13:17

Ezekiel 3:16-17

**6. The faithful shepherd *warns* the flock of God about the dangers of sin.**

***“I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone”*** Gk *noutheteo*; ‘to place in mind; to caution, warn.’

Ezekiel 33:8-9

Jeremiah 8:10-12;

Colossians 1:28

***“with tears”***

He passionately appeals to them and warns them with tears because he loves them.

**v32**

**7. The faithful shepherd commits the flock of God to the God of the flock in *prayer*.**

***“I commend you to God”***

There is no better Overseer than God. Under shepherds die, the Chief Shepherd lives forever.

***“I will build my Church”***

His means: prayer, faith, and ***“the word of his grace”*** which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.