



Servant Leadership

Main Text for The Week: *“Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you:” (1 Peter 5:7, KJV).*

Read and Meditate on these Texts:

1 Pet. 5:1-10; Acts 6:1-6; Jer. 10:21; Matt. 20:24-28; Prov. 3:34; Rev. 12:7-9

Main Thought for the Week: Servant leadership must be understood that one serves as an Overseer, not by compulsion but willingly and eagerly shepherding the flock (people) of God for whom Jesus Christ suffered and died. The concept of servant leadership is uniquely exemplified in the experience with Jesus and Peter recorded in John 21:15-17. In this passage of scripture two aspects of leadership and job description are laid out; - the first aspect: Jesus told Peter to show his love for Him by feeding and tending His sheep. The second aspect was to tend the sheep. This means protecting, guiding, nurturing and caring for the sheep. Hence the most important “tool” for a servant leader to have as an Undershepherd for the flock of God is a heart like the heart of Jesus (the Good Shepherd). A servant leader is an Undershepherd who is willing to give his life for the sheep, one who genuinely cares and is interested in them. **Read John 10:11-14; 1 Peter 5: 1-10.**



Elders in the Early Church

Sunday's Summary – May 7:

SUMMARY THOUGHTS: As the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Godhead, directs the gospel work in the early church, Paul and Barnabas were moved, not just to make new Christians but to establish new churches, places where these Christians could grow and be grounded in the truth. They knew that these congregations must have proper administration, so being led by the Holy Spirit, they appointed Elders in every city where there were new Christians to stand as leaders in the churches. Imagine, recognizing and choosing Elders from among the converts of a few weeks to stand as elders in their churches! What does this tell us about Paul and Barnabas? They believed and were more conscious of the presence, power and working of the Holy Spirit in the community of believers (**Acts 14:23**).

1. What wise counsel does Peter give to those who serve the Church as Elders?
(**1 Peter 5:1-3**) _____

2. What further counsel does the Apostle Paul share with believers concerning Elders who serve the Church? (**1 Timothy 5:17**) _____

PERSONAL NOTES: _____



The Elders

Monday's Summary – May 8:

SUMMARY THOUGHTS: Peter likens the role of an elder to an undershepherd tending the flock of God. He commands that the elders should:

- Feed the flock and not to fleece the flock of God,
- Take oversight of the flock of God,
- Serve God and His flock willingly,
- Serve readily and not for personal gain
- Do not be lords over God's heritage
- Be an example to the flock.

1. What important warning to those leaders who are pastors and elders is given in the following texts? (**Jeremiah 10:21; Ezekiel 34:8-10**) _____

2. Given the fact that the Elder is human and does err at times, how may you work best to help the elder in his task of servant leader? _____

PERSONAL NOTES: _____



Servant Leadership

Tuesday's Summary – May 9:

1. What are some principles of exemplary servant leadership found in the following two texts? (**Matthew 20:24-28; 1 Peter 5:3**) _____

2. How does Paul's counsel relate to what Peter instructed? (**Philippians 2:4-8**) _____

Discussion Thought: Peter saw himself as a fellow elder among elders and gives a word of exhortation to the elders (undershepherds) who are among the Christian believers tending the flock of God, that they should not do their jobs as lords because the sheep do not belong to them. Instead, shepherds are to serve as examples. The sobering fact is this: whether the undershepherds (pastors/elders) intend to be examples to the flock or not, a congregation takes on the personality of the undershepherds in good ways and bad ways.

PERSONAL NOTES: _____



Clothed With Humility

Wednesday's Summary – May 10:

1. What very important lesson does Peter want us to understand concerning humility?
(1 Peter 5:5-7) _____

2. What does it mean to be submissive one to another and to be clothed with
humility? (Ephesians 5:21) _____

ANSWER: To be submissive and to be clothed with humility refers to a slave putting on an apron before serving as Jesus did before washing the feet of the disciples. Read **John 13:4** and **Philippians 2:8**.

Appeal: Examine yourself. Are you willing to perform the lowest and menial service for Jesus' sake? Are you consciously aware of your own inability apart from God? Are you willing to be ignored by men? Are you willing to forget self and become truly other-centered instead of self-centered? Is it your desire, beginning today, to lay aside your pride and be clothed with humility not only before God but also before one another? _____

PERSONAL NOTES: _____



Like A Roaring Lion

Thursday’s Summary – May 11:

Discussion Thought: Peter exhorts and reminds Christians to remain clear-headed (**sober**) and watchful (**vigilant**). Question: **Why this exhortation?**

Answer: Read **Revelation 20:1-2**. At this present time we are still on earth and Satan has not yet been bound and restrained as the text says he will be for one thousand years . So he still has the potential and power to devour souls and rob Christians of their effectiveness.

How does Satan roar today among believers? (Please read the following texts during Sabbath School Discussion)

- 1. Psalms 15:3; Galatians 5:15 - He roars through the persecution of the brethren
- 2. James 1:14-15 - He roars through strong temptations
- 3. 2 Timothy 3:1-3 - He roars through blasphemers and accusers.

1. How does Peter outline for us the evil way in which the Devil works to destroy God’s people? (**1 Peter 5:8-10**) _____

2. What further clarity do we see in Revelation as to the origin of sin and the nature of evil? (**Revelation 12:7-9**) _____

Appeal: Will you just give God a resounding Praise right now that while Satan counterfeits the roar of a lion, Jesus is the Conquering Lion who secures your soul salvation, and guarantees eternal security from sin and evil?

PERSONAL NOTES: _____



Servant Leadership

Friday’s Summary – May 12:

ILLUMINATION: In consenting to become man, Christ manifested a humility that is the marvel of the heavenly intelligences. The act of consenting to be a man would be no humiliation were it not for the fact of Christ’s exalted pre-existence. We must open our understanding to realize that Christ laid aside His royal robe, His kingly crown, His high command, and clothed His divinity with humanity, that He might meet man where he was, and bring to the human family moral power to become the sons and daughters of God.

“The meekness and humility that characterized the life of Christ will be made manifest in the life and character of those who ‘walk even as He walked.’”

- Ellen G. White, *Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 81.

Final Thoughts: We at Metro New York World Ministry are committed to exemplifying the concept of Servant Leadership. We also encourage and pray for all our family of believers that you will allow the virtues of Christ’s example of humility and commitment in service to be the hallmark of your life and Christian experience.

PERSONAL NOTES: _____

