

Jesus Tenaciously, Tenderly Shepherds Us

By Scotty Smith

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah... out of you will come for me whose origins are from of old... He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And he will be our peace.” **Micah 5:2, 4–5** “The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need.” **Psalm 23:1**

Lord Jesus, Micah’s prophecy of your coming simply adds to the long list of reasons we love and adore you. Today we’re especially moved to worship you for being the Shepherd-Savior you are to us.

Having laid down your life as the Lamb of God, you’ve risen from the dead, and are *now* our Standing Shepherd—relentlessly caring, vigilantly protecting, and faithfully providing for us. 2021 has underscored how much we need the green pastures of your grace; and the greenest pastures of the new earth, you’ll bring with you at your return.

Because of your great love for us, we don’t have everything we want, but we lack nothing we need. Because you are Immanuel, we don’t have to be afraid of anything or anyone. You are now our life, and even death has become gain.

Your greatness will “*reach to the ends of the earth,*” and we will live securely forever. You are our peace—our complete forgiveness and perfect righteousness. Thank you, Lord Jesus. So very Amen we pray, in your great and gracious name.



June 27, 2021

10:30 A.M.

Shepherding the Flock of God



1 PETER
5:1-4

"SHEPHERD
THE FLOCK
OF GOD..."

Parting
Words
from
Peter

Order of Service

Announcements

Welcome

Preparation for Worship

-----God's Greatness-----

Call to Worship

Hymn of Adoration: "Come Thou Fount, Come Thou King"

Prayer of Invocation

Affirmation of Faith: The Heidelberg Catechism

Song of Praise

"Worthy Worthy". Sooter/Fieldes

Children are dismissed to Sunday School.

----- God's Renewal -----

Understanding Ourselves Rightly: Luke 15:17-19

Public Confession

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort: John 3:16-17

Song of Renewal

"Lord I Need You". . . .Reeves/Stamfill/Maher/Nockels/Carson

-----God's Grace-----

Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 5:1-4 (ESV)

Prayer

The Sermon

"Shepherding the Flock of God"

Words of Institution

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Hymn

"The Wonderful Cross". Tomlin/Walt/Reeves

Prayer of Approach

-----God's Blessing-----

Parting Hymn: "Lord Have Mercy (For What We Have Done)"

. . .Papa/Boswell/Keys/Tealy

Benediction

God's Gracious Provision 6/20/2021

Attendance: 51

Offering: \$1644.00

Your offering may be place in the box at the Welcome Table.

The G.I.F.T. Plan

A friendly church is not something that will happen automatically. We need a plan that will encourage us to open our hearts wider and meet some new friends along the way. Try one of the four steps every week. Who will you G.I.F.T. today?

G Greet someone you've never met before.

Get out of your comfort zone. Find someone whose name you don't know and learn it. Welcome them if they've been around for a while, but you just haven't met yet. Or offer to sit with them if they came to church alone.

I Introduce people to each other.

After meeting someone, make sure they meet others too. Connect people who have something in common. Introduce a first-time guest to the pastor, a young person to the youth leader, or kids and their parents to the children's ministries director.

F Follow up with someone you met recently.

Find that person you met a week or two ago and say hi again. Call them by name. Engage in further conversation. Include them in your group of friends.

T Thank someone who did something you appreciate.

Every church has people who volunteer their time and efforts with little, if any, appreciation shown to them. Sometimes it's a simple "way to go" as you pass the sound board. Or a "thank you" to a Sunday schoolteacher for encouraging your child to read the Bible.

Matthew 20:25–28 (ESV)

But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. ²⁶It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, ²⁷and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, ²⁸ even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

The Elder’s Reward

Elders do labor for a reward—one that will be given to them on the day of Christ’s return. The prize of “the unfading crown of glory” comes in the next life, not this one.

Closing

Elders have an important role to fill until Christ returns. They must make themselves ready. To remain in the work they must look for their reward in the right place and at the right time. And all of us must walk together through this wilderness world in humility and with grace.¹

Notes

¹Helm, D. R. (2008). *1 & 2 Peter and Jude: sharing christ’s sufferings* (p. 165). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.

Upcoming Events

TONIGHT 6:15-7:15 P.M. House of Prayer
GCC Prayer Gathering for youth and adults
1300 High Street, Pottstown, PA

Tuesday, June 29 6:00 –8:00 P.M. Youth(Grades 6-12) and Young Adults(under 30) meet at the Deicherts for supper, Bible Study(groups separated), Volleyball, and ice cream.

Saturday, July 10 6:00 P.M. Prayer Dinner at the home of Pastor Rick and Barb

Saturday, July 17 8:00 A.M. Men’s Breakfast at the home of Pastor Rick

Monday, July 19-24 Youth Group goes to **Harvey Cedars Bible Conference Senior High Youth Week.**

Everyone is invited to join with the elders in prayer every Sunday from 9:30-10:00 in the back of the gym.

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters.

³ He restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Prayer/Praise. June 27, 2021

- Pray for Sara Care who is having a heart catheterization on June 28 and a valve repair on July 28. Pray for wisdom for the doctors, peace for Sara, and successful procedures.
- Praise that Koreen Mace's dad is home from the hospital. Pray for continued strength for Gwen, who is taking care of him.
- Pray for Jim Tobin, the husband of Donna Jenkins' cousin, Terri. Jim was just diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease. Pray for Terri as she cares for Jim and their grandchildren.
- Pray for Margaret Henz, friend of Donna Jenkins, who is in a hospice center in Virginia. Pray for her daughter Eva as she goes through this time with her mother.
- Pray for Austin, stepson of Lorraine Blanski's niece. He is having a series of surgeries for severe burns over most of his body. Pray for his healing and for his family as they walk with him through this time.
- Pray for God's comfort for Lisa Frame's co-worker Kathleen and her husband. They lost their baby recently when Kathleen was 8 months pregnant.
- Pray for Dave Conway, husband of Steve Simon's cousin, Trish. Dave had liver and prostate tests done on Friday, June 11th, to determine if cancer is present. Pray for God's healing and strength for Dave.
- Pray for Christopher, son of Susan and Glen Williams. Pray that he is freed from his addiction and that most importantly, he finds that Jesus is his only hope. Pray for healing for the Williams family.
- Pray for Deana Deichert's father. Pray the MRI on July 6 will show that the tumor in his spine is not in the spinal canal. Pray for wisdom for his doctors and healing for Deana's father. Praise he has a better pain management plan and is responding well to hormone therapy. He attends GCC virtually and is soaking up the Word.
- Pray that a position will open for Jeremiah Mace to be employed at Teen Challenge. Pray for healing for Koreen's family.
- Pray for Rhonda Clark's father, Donald Mace, as he continues chemotherapy treatments.
- Pray for Denny Bartchak, friend of Barb Knarr. He is scheduled for another bladder surgery on July 15.
- Pray for Ashley, the niece of Lisa Frame's friend, Denise, who is undergoing chemotherapy treatment. Pray for healing and salvation.
- Pray for Diane Ziegler, friend of Donna Jenkins, who had two surgeries and is doing better. Diane needs more chemotherapy treatments.
- Pray for Tracy Spencer, niece of Donna Jenkins, and her baby boy, Evan, who was born on May 5th. Pray for improvement in Evan's lungs. Pray for wisdom for the doctors and healing for Evan.
- Praise that Donna Plowfield's son, David, found employment at Shannon Dell in Oaks.
- Pray for Justine Schumaker, mother of Renee Schumaker. Pray for healing for Justine through her chemotherapy treatment.

Message

Shepherding the Flock of God

1 Peter 5:1–4 (ESV)

So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: ²shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; ³not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. ⁴And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

As long as the church remains far from home, and as long as she continues to exist in the fragility of refining exile, she will need faithful shepherds. And the role of the elders is that of a shepherd.

The Elder's Work

An Elder is to be a shepherd in the flock, and that means he is to feed the sheep the Word of God. He is to tend to their needs with empathy and care. He is to protect them from wolves, from false teaching. He is to guide them away from the wastelands of worldliness into green pastures and quiet waters that their souls might be restored.

The Elder's Conduct

Shepherd them “not under compulsion, but willingly.”

The willing shepherd embraces God's will and makes it his own, as a task freely chosen.

Not for Shameful Gain, but Eagerly

To serve the church for the sake of money rather than the Lord and his people is shameful and akin to fraud. It's one thing to *make* money, another to *serve* it.

Not Domineering but Setting an Example

The office of elder is not for power and control, but an office of ministry and care for the shepherd. And that means we are to be out among the people. The sheep should know their shepherd so that when the shepherd leads them his sheep are glad to follow because they have seen his life.