Different - **wk 17 – Leading and following**

**1 Peter - Letter to Christians be chased from their homes into new communities who had never heard of Jesus.**

**Persecution followed them everywhere. Peter wrote, remember you are being watched… \*\* Be Different!!**

**The last chap - Peter wraps up his letter to the exiled meeting in home churches - with a challenge to leaders and potential leaders.**

**First to the Leaders**

**1 Peter 5:1 To the elders (“presbuteros” mature believer / leaders) among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ’s sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: (as one leader to another who knows the challenges)**

**Aimed at spiritual leaders, apply to home, work, softball teams**

**2 Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; 3 not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. 4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. (4 simple verses about how to be a dynamic leader)**

**How to be a Great Leader – How to lead well**

**2 Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them**

**1. Have a shepherd’s heart**

**Jo 10:11-13, Ps 23, Heb 4:14-16, 12:5-12, 1 Cor 10:13, Col 3:21, Prov 22:10, 20:26**

**A shepherd was part ninja, vet, and nurturing caregiver.**

**Four of the greatest leaders in the Bible were all shepherds. Abraham, Moses, David, and Jesus the great shepherd.**

**Jesus is called the great, good, and chief shepherd.**

**John 10:11 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So, when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. 13 The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd. I know My sheep and My sheep know Me, 15 just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father. And I lay down My life for the sheep.**

**The shepherds heart is one who lays his life down for the sheep. Living with sheep, Shepherds protect, provide,**

**and guide as seasons change. (go through each one)**

**Peter describes leading like a shepherd: Marks of a great leader:**

* **Good leaders have true authentic care for people**

**“watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing”**

**Willingly compelled by compassion, not because they have to, but you want to. Good leaders love people.**

* **Good leaders think of others more than they do themselves**

**If you’re thinking like a hired hand, you’re thinking about self-preservation. It is always about the sheep not the shepherd.**

**Philippians 2:3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves…**

**\* Footnote – you are a shepherd of your family first. We are not to burn ourselves out. Stay healthy and balanced and you will lead others better. Remember, there is only one Messiah!**

* **Good leaders will be misunderstood**

**Peter says do this - “As God wants you to be” Understand the call of God to lead and care for people. Pleasing God rather than pleasing people.**

**As a leader, your goal is not for everyone to love you.**

**You will see things that others do not see, and you will have to make choices that others will not agree with.**

**Gal 1:10 Am I seeking the approval of man, or of God? Am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.**

**A good leader must be willing to do what God wants over what people wants. “The Lord is my shepherd – he leads me… he guides me… and he makes me lay down…” “with a staff & rod” - Psalm 23**

**Larry Osborne - If you are going to lead anything you must be able to live with low level frustration. Meaning people will be frustrated w/ you. Child being held down while getting stiches. Why are you doing this?**

* **Good leaders do not focus on compensation**

**“…not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve…**

**Not about the money, parking spots, and bonuses.**

**“What will I be paid - bonuses and benefits? Sometimes there are none. Good leaders are selfless (strive to slay selfishness)**

**“Dishonest gain” = Honest, transparent before others – not using it for $$**

**“Dishonest gain” vs. honest gain - In the bible ministry vocational leaders are paid- if possible. However, true leaders lead even if they’re not paid**

**What I love about our leadership - they selflessly and willingly serve – hopefully one day we can hire some but until then…**

* **Good leaders do not pursue status but serving**

**…but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you…**

**For a real leader – it is not about the power, titles, or position. “What will I be called / title?”**

**Good leaders understand they are clearly called to serve others, not to be served. They are not eager to lead – but eager to serve!**

**\* In my early years I just wanted to serve anywhere! Eagerly, enthusiastically. What can I do, how can I help? Came early, stayed late – still do. \* I love what I do enthusiastically.**

**Jesus is the model - Matthew 20:28 – …just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."**

**BTW- when people lead to be served, they become controlling, manipulative, and arrogant leaders. Know someone like that?**

**…but eager to serve… to serve enthusiastically – without complaining.**

**Good leaders do not complain, they identify areas of improvement and offer solutions. \*\* If you can’t willingly and eagerly serve – don’t lead.**

**If you’re not willing to pick up poop, don’t get a dog! If you don’t want to be taken advantage of, don’t lead. That is was serving is, it’s giving more than what you get. In this life.**

**Heart check: What is your motivation for wanting to lewd?**

* **You lead by example - “but being examples to the flock.”**

**You live what you tell others. Examples in love, lifestyle and generosity**

**You don’t drive people, you lead them. Eisenhower - pull a string as long as you are in front… but push and it’s a knot.**

**\* Does your life in private match your life in public? Are you an example to your family as much as you at church, work, team.**

**“I fought hard to get here, when you’re me you can do what you want” = mass Exodus (see Solomon’s son) parents if that you’re your style – expect a fast Exodus. \*\* Lead by example.**

**\*\* Your kids will become who you are. Character is caught not taught.**

**Live the way you want them to live – be who you desire them to be.**

**Good leaders do not say “do as I say, not as I do.”**

**2. Have a long-range perspective**

**1 Peter 5:4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.**

**Pastor Jesus - senior past, chief shepherd, absolute leader, and celestial Chief executive – will be assigning our new and passing our bonuses and at his return. This life is the job interview.**

**You may not get rewarded for your labor until Jesus come back. Good leaders know this – Poor leaders want reward now.**

**Until then enjoy the appetizers (small blessings) if you don’t like the appetizers and it’s not enough – dinner is still coming.**

**Peter then address - When you’re not leading, yet – How to follow Well**

**1 Peter 5:5 In the same way, you who are younger, (newer believers – not yet leaders) submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.” 6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.**

**1. Have a submissive attitude - 1 Pe 5:5 submit yourselves to your elders…**

**Submit = to voluntarily subject to – willing submission.**

* **To be in leadership you must first learn to follow a leader**

**Learn to submit – it won’t be easy.**

**\* Leadership is given, it is not taken or even earned. (explain)**

**As a leader I look for people who have the qualities we just talked about. That is someone I can trust to give responsibility to.**

**Can you follow direction?**

**2. Have a teachable attitude**

**…clothe yourselves with humility toward one another…**

**Being ready to learn from anyone – even the unlikely**

**That means you listen more than you talk**

**That means you’re learning to not be defensive with corrected.**

* **Many want the power without the responsibility**
* **Many want the position without the pain**
* **Many want the title without the time it takes**
* **Many want the authority without being the auxiliary (supporting)**

**Can you listen and apply instruction?**

**4:5 All of you clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, “God opposes the proud (make war with the arrogant) but shows favor to the humble.” (which would you like? Favor or warfare) 6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand… (Learning to submit to God)**

**3. Have a humble attitude**

**Choose humility – it doesn’t come naturally**

**Grace and pride are eternal enemies – and will drive a wedge between you and God and you and others. It is a stench and repulsive.**

**Arrogant Pride is about self-reliance and dominating others**

**Humility is about self-denial and serving others.**

**Humility described in the Bible: (Luke 9:48, 22:26, Matt 23:11, Mark 9:35)**

**Humility is willingness to do the lowest and smallest act of service.**

**Humility is a willingness to be ignored by men, but known by God.**

**Humility is being supportive of other ideas and input.**

**Humility celebrates other accomplishments and achievements.**

**Humility does not need to be the center of attention.**

**Humility does not need recognition – but give credit to others work.**

**Humility is being flexible and when working with others.**

**4. Have a long-term mentality**

**6 …that he may lift you up in due time.**

**Learn to wait for influence – you won’t want to**

**This means you are consistently faithful and can be counted on.**

**Years serving without a position – out of love and a calling = platform.**

**If you are a humble servant and truly love others – and are consistent and selfless – God will make a way for you.**

**Next week the last one – a final reminder from the Apostle Peter**