



MATT BLACK, Sun, Mar 4, 2018  
livinghopechurch.net

# 21 | 1 PETER 5:1-4

## THE CALLING OF SHEPHERDS

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## Announcements

1. Welcome visitors!
2. Bible Study, prayer meeting, youth group on Wed at 7pm
3. Memorial service Saturday at 12:30pm for Jedidiah Rowe

Open your Bible if you will to 1 Peter 5. We are again in our study of 1 Peter. Isn't it amazing that God calls any one of us? Paul says about our calling that God doesn't call many wise or noble or strong. He calls the weak to shame the strong. He calls and chooses the despised to bring to nothing the wise, that no flesh should glory in his sight (1 Cor 1:24-27). Being a pastor and an elder is a very high and holy calling. No one does this unless they are called by God to do it.

### JUDGMENT BEGINS WITH LEADERSHIP

1 Peter says in **1 Peter 4:17**, "For it is time for judgment to begin at the household [family] of God." Peter then considers his own self. Lord, let judgment begin with me. This judgment of God's people can never be condemnation, for "there is now therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (**Rom 8:1**) Judgment – not condemnation but examination – should always begin with leadership. The example and examination should always begin with leadership. Peter says, because **judgment always begins with God's family**, let's invite God's examination of us, and let's begin with the elders.

**1 Peter 5:1-4**, "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: 2 shepherd 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; 3 not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. 4 And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory."

By the way, everything that we see here concerning the Pastor really ought to be applied to any teacher or leader in the church! That means if God calls you or has already called you to be an elder (which is another word for pastor or preacher), or if God has called you to be a leader, or a deacon, or a missionary, or a servant, or a Sunday School teacher, than you ought to listen to what I am about to say.

There is a higher standard of judgment for leaders and teachers of the Word. "Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness" (**Jas 3:1**).

### PETER: A FELLOW ELDER

Peter says he is a "fellow elder." Peter is an apostle, but he's a normal person. He's a man who is growing and changing in Christ. He needs the presence of Christ to strengthen him. He's a weak man in need of the presence of Christ, like all of us. It wasn't Peter's goal in life to be a pastor and a shepherd and apostle. He wasn't his ambition. He was called by God to do this. And remember, he failed miserably.

Three times, Peter denied the Lord. And remember Jesus restored him. He asked Peter three times in John 21:15a, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" Remember Peter had said, "Even if everyone else forsakes you Lord, I will never forsake

you.” Peter failed. He denied the Lord three times. “Peter do you love me more than all the rest?” Remember Christ’s restoration and threefold commission to Peter?

“Feed my lambs” (21:15b)

“Tend my sheep” (21:16)

“Feed my sheep” (21:17)

That’s quite the calling. Let’s remember that shepherds are not perfect. Far from it. None of the elders here come close to perfection. We are all growing and changing just like Peter. Peter often failed. I think that’s why I am so encouraged by Peter. I relate with him.

### SHEEP NEED CARE

This passage says that a pastor ought to shepherd and care for the flock. I’m so glad we can all say, “The Lord is my Shepherd.” This passage in 1 Peter calls Jesus “our Chief Shepherd” (5:4). Aren’t you glad Jesus is the “Good Shepherd” (**Jn 10:10**)? I need Jesus as my Shepherd because as a sheep I need care and direction. Phillip Keller, the sheep herding pastor who wrote several books on Psalm 23 said,

“It is no accident that God has chosen to call us sheep.” “The behavior of sheep and human beings is similar in many ways.... Sheep do not ‘just take care of themselves’ as some might suppose. They require, more than any other class of livestock, endless attention and meticulous care.”<sup>1</sup>

#### *Sheep are Dumb*

The Bible isn’t flattering us when it calls us “sheep.” You and I are sheep. We are Christ’s sheep. Aren’t you glad? Do you know what sheep are? Dumb! I don’t mean to insult you; it’s just the truth. The Bible says to say everything in truth with love, so with love I tell you—you’re dumb. I’m dumb. We’re dumb.

You will never find sheep **in the circus**—ever! They’re not jumping through hoops. They’re not riding the elephants. Isaiah said, “All we like sheep have gone astray” (Isa 53:6). Sheep need guidance because sheep are dumb. I should know. I am one of the Lord’s sheep, and without him I am nothing. Can you testify to that saints? Sheep are dumb. They need guidance.

#### *Sheep are Distracted*

You never see sheep **guiding a carriage (like a horse) in Chicago**. That would be interesting. They are too **weak**. They are too **distracted**. If there was a cliff, they’d lead you over it. They are quite distracted. But sheep will follow their Shepherd.

Sheep need a Shepherd. Jesus is our Good Shepherd isn’t He? Jesus says in **John 10:27**, “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.”

#### *Sheep are Dirty*

You know what else sheep are? They’re **dirty**. I am enamored with sheep, because we’re the sheep of his pasture. I’m so glad we have a Good Shepherd that will “anoint my

<sup>1</sup> W. Phillip Keller. *A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23* [Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1979], 20–21

head with oil.” Such oil was put on the head of the sheep as a repellent from insects. Sheep are very dirty without a Good Shepherd to clean them up. Flies can nest in the sheep’s wool and leave larvae. They can next and leave maggots in the sheep’s wool. Sheep are dirty. All we like sheep have gone astray. We need a good shepherd to guide us and clean us up.

*Jesus Became a Sheep, a Lamb of God.* And before you think that I’m just insulting you, because I’m not really insulting, because I’m one of those, too. I’m a lamb, too. Just remember that our Savior became the precious Lamb of God. He condescended and became like us. He knows how we are, and He became the Lamb of God.

### **Shepherds are called to care for the Sheep in four ways**

Shepherds are called to care for the sheep in three ways: leaders must precede, feed, lead the flock and receive a crown for the flock. Leaders out there – ministry leaders, Titus 2 men and women, we should all strive to be disciple makers. Pastors, elders, deacons, mature men and women, who do we lead the congregation? We begin with getting to know the Shepherd. Peter knew the Shepherd in a precious way.

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## **1. SHEPHERDS ARE CALLED TO PRECEDE THE FLOCK (5:1)**

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**1 Peter 5:1**, “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.”

God promised he would give his church true shepherds. **Jeremiah 3:15**, “And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.” God gives shepherds who experience and share an understanding of him. Peter had an intimate understanding of Christ – witness of his suffering and partaker of his glory. All shepherds need to have this understanding.

Jonathan Edwards said that every home is like a little church and the father is the shepherd. We have so many shepherds here today! According to this passage we are all going to be held accountable. I want to be a shepherd after God’s heart.

Peter knew the Shepherd in a precious way. He was witness to his suffering and to his glory. He saw the Lord suffer and rise again from the dead. What amazing training for a pastor and elder. Peter was given the gift of Christ revealed to him. What a gift to worship Christ in that way. That’s a gift, but it is absolutely necessary for every leader in the church.

Peter was blown away by witnessing the sufferings and glory of Christ. You can see he has quite the reason to worship Christ. Because of his walk with Christ, Peter addresses his fellow elders very humbly as a “fellow elder,” not an exalted apostle.

### **PRECEDE THE FLOCK IN SUFFERING**

Peter was “a witness of the sufferings of Christ.” Peter was there when Christ sweat great drops of blood in the **Garden of Gethsemane**. He saw the Lord as he was being beaten the home of Caiaphas the high priest. Christ even met eyes with Peter through a window there after Peter had denied him. Peter scattered at the crucifixion “like a sheep without a shepherd,” but perhaps he could see the Lord from a place of hiding. Peter witnessed Christ’s sufferings.

*Perseverance.* The apostles were often called witnesses because they walked with Christ and were witnesses of his life and death and resurrection. Being an elder means that we are like all Christians “sharing in Christ’s sufferings” (4:13). If you live a holy life, the world will hate you. There is a demonic opposition against all Christians who want to live holy in Christ. “All who live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution” (2 Tim 2:12).

We’re called to persevere through persecution and trials and disappointments and discouragements. “The joy of the Lord is my strength” (Neh 8:10).

No matter what your suffering is on this earth, the joy we have in Christ is so much greater! And remember the words of Paul, “I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us” (Rom 8:18).

What do you turn to when you are suffering? Peter turned to worship. Look at what he says. He remembers the “sufferings of Christ.” He’s a witness to it! But he’s also a “partaker of the glory” that will be revealed at the Second Coming!

### PRECEDE THE FLOCK IN GLORY

As Peter begins his exhortation to the church—he first turns to the office of the pastors and elders. He says something very precious. He says, “I’ve not only witnessed the sufferings of Christ,” but I am “a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed.” You know the glory that we are going to experience when Jesus comes again? I’ve experienced it already.

#### *The Glory of the Transfiguration*

Peter says, “I was there when the Lord transfigured himself.” Peter says, “I witnessed the glory that Christ had before the world began” up on that Mount of Transfiguration. Christ “led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light” (Mt 17:1-2). I saw his glory! Christ for just a moment peeled back the robe of His humanity, and the Shekinah glory of His blinding divine presence was revealed. Peter was saying, “*You know that one day we will see Christ in all His glory? Well, I as an elder have experienced it already.*”

#### *The Glory of the Second Coming*

The Pastor and elders and deacons are to be witnessing the glory of Christ. The Pastor is to shepherd the flock by being “a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed” (5:1). One day Christ’s glory is going to be revealed to every person that has ever lived. Every soul that ever lived will finally understand Christ’s glory. But Christians are those who partake of his glory now. We are “partakers of the divine nature” (2 Pet 1:4).

Many people have **gifts**, but they do not have the **character** that comes from walking with Christ. The Lord’s people will rarely ascend to heights that the pastor has not scaled first. It is utterly vital that the pastor have a living dynamic loving walk with God, a man of fervent prayer. The pastor must be one who knows how to touch heaven and to cling to the Lord.

The pastor is one who must partake of the glory of Christ! He must **succeed** in his personal walk with God. In the book of Genesis, we read: **Enoch** walked with God (5:24),

**Noah** walked with God (6:9). I want to know **child of God** do you walk with God? Your pastors and elders walk with God. And it is our highest joy to see you walking with him.

A leader must succeed in his walk with God. Any man that wants to lead God's church must **precede** in his own walk with God.

To have power in preaching, he must constantly be before the Throne of Grace. He must succeed in devotion with his family. He has a family altar. He prays with his wife, prays with his children, prays with his forever family in Christ. He must be a man of continual prayer! The pastor must succeed in putting the Word of God into practice! It's easy to defend what you believe. It's a whole 'nother story to live what you believe! The pastor if he is to preach powerfully, must live out the principles of God's Word *before* he preaches them!

**1 John 3:18**, "let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth." In doing God's will the pastor desperately needs to be conscious of the power of God to change people. **Pastors do not change people—God changes people!**

## 2. SHEPHERDS ARE CALLED TO FEED THE FLOCK (5:2)

**1 Peter 5:2-3**, "Shepherd 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; 3 not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock."

### FEED WITH REVERENCE

We are to shepherd God's flock. This is the flock of God! I love **Psalm 23:1-2**, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters."

God wants his lambs fed. That's what he told Peter, "Feed my lambs" (**Jn 21:15b**). An elder leads by first feeding himself and being a partaker of Christ's glory. Then he's able to "Feed the flock of God" out of the overflow.

Before shepherding and caring for the flock, shepherds must first pay careful attention to their own walk with Christ.

**Acts 20:28**, "Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood."

Loving Jesus precedes feeding his lambs. We dare not try to feed the sheep without first getting the food from **our Chief Shepherd**.

God gives shepherds the job of feeding the flock. **Jeremiah 3:15**, "And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding." "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God" (**Mt 4:4**).

### FEED WITH SUBSTANCE

The word "shepherd" can be translated "feed." Do you know that sheep are hungry? The elders must feed the flock with good **doctrine** (take heed to the doctrine). God has spoken. His word is authoritative. He knows what is best. He gives us the wisdom because he knows the way life should be lived to its fullest. We desperately need sound teaching.

- **1 Timothy 4:16**, “Keep a close watch on yourself and on the **teaching**. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.”
- **1 Timothy 4:13**, “Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to **teaching**.”
- **Titus 2:1**, “But as for you, teach what accords with sound **doctrine**.”

There are some elders who would rather *dissect* the Bible rather than *digest* the Bible. If the pastor does not “taste and see that the Lord is good” he will have nothing but dry bones to give to others!

**Psalm 34:8**, “Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!”

**Psalm 1:2**, “his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.”

**1 Peter 5:2**, “Shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight...” Preaching should be rich, expository, and practical! The Bible is not a textbook to simply examine, but it is a book that examines you! We read the Bible, but the Bible reads us! The pastor must read, study, and grapple with the Scriptures so that he can adequately feed the people of God. The man of God must be so God-saturated that he preaches out of the overflow, and the message focuses on the Person and Plan of God in the world. **People DO NOT need entertainment in the pulpit; they need FOOD.**

### FEED WITH BALANCE

Preaching must emphasize the whole counsel of God. Paul said to the Ephesian elders in **Acts 20:27**, “I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.” The sheep need a BALANCED diet of the whole counsel of God.

The sheep don’t need the pastor’s preferences or favorite parts of theology. It is best to preach through the Bible (lectuo continuo), book by book, chapter by chapter, verse by verse, line upon line, precept upon precept.

### FEED WITH GLADNESS

**1 Peter 5:2**, “Shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly.”

If you desire to be an elder, you desire an **honorable office**. **1 Tim 3:1**, “The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task.”

Feed the flock with joy, hard work, and enthusiasm. Shepherding God’s people is hard work. Isaiah calls the watchman of Israel in **Isaiah 56:10-11**, “lazy dogs” who are “blind watchmen” who like lazy dogs “have a mighty appetite” but “they never have enough.” They fleece the sheep instead of sacrificing for them and feeding them.

Remember Shiloh! Eli and Hophni and Phineas were lazy and did not care for God’s people. So sad. “Go now to my place that was in Shiloh, where I made my name dwell at first, and see what I did to it because of the evil of my people Israel” (**Jer 7:12**). Remember Shiloh! You can go there today and see what God did to it. He burned it down. If we ever become lazy as God’s under shepherds, God will remove our candlestick from Roselle. “If

you don't repent, I will come and remove your lampstand from its place among the churches" (Rev 2:5).

The shepherds are going to give an account, and so he must work hard! The truth of the matter is that ministry is hard work. There is not a place in ministry for the under motivated and the lazy. Much of the energy resident in any local church is in part the result of the leadership dynamic of its pastor.

As a shepherd is to lead by feeding the flock!

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### 3. SHEPHERDS ARE CALLED TO **LEAD** THE FLOCK (5:2-3)

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**1 Peter 5:2-3**, "Shepherd 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; 3 not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock."

#### **LEAD WITH ENGAGEMENT**

**1 Peter 5:2-3**, "shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight..."

#### ***The Overseer is a watchman***

The term bishop, which means "overseer" is from the same word as is above "taking the oversight." This comes right out of the Old Testament. Paul's Hebrew mind was thinking of the word "watchman" in the Hebrew.

**In fact, the Hebrew word for Christian in Israel is watchman. We are all called to watch over each other and watch out for the enemy.**

If you desire to be an elder, you desire an **honorable office**. **1 Tim 3:1**, "The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task."

What is this oversight? It means we are to engage in the lives of God's people. We are to meet them where they are. In their homes, in their lives. We are to engage their problems. The Bible is God's sufficient Word. It is able to bring the child of God to understand the will of God and be led by the Spirit of God in all circumstances.

It will help you psychologically, emotionally, socially, spiritually. The Shepherd is to engage the sheep that they may live a life pleasing to the Lord in every area of life! Let's engage the sheep with the Word and wisdom of the Great Shepherd of the Sheep, Jesus.

Exercise oversight. Go before the sheep. Look out for their souls!

#### **LEAD WITH EXPERIENCE**

**1 Peter 5:2**, "shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight..."

The word "**overseers**" / "**oversight**" (Obispo) is another way to say the pastors and elders are to be watching over and looking out for the spiritual state of the sheep.

A pastor must take the oversight—he is helping people first be born again. All spiritual food is vain unless a person is born again. Without regeneration, there can be no



meaningful growth. So the pastors and elders are to lead so that people will be prepared to for the final Judgment Day.

The idea of “exercising oversight” is to be personally involved in the life of the sheep to assess their spiritual condition. **Leadership is about discipleship.**

We are called to lead God’s precious flock by **getting them ready** for the day when we all meet Christ. That’s why a text like **Hebrews 13:17**, is very convicting: “...your leaders... are **keeping watch over your souls**, as those who will have to give an **account**. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.”

Or another sobering command to elders in **Acts 20:28**, “Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers**, to care for the church of God, **which he obtained with his own blood**.”

You can hear the earnestness and the seriousness in those words: you elders shepherd the people “whom God purchased with his own blood.” In other words, don't take this work lightly.

### LEAD WITH ENTHUSIASM

**1 Peter 5:2a**, “shepherd the flock of God that is among you, **exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly**.” Their ought to be a ready and willing spirit, a spiritual enthusiasm.

“The joy of the Lord is my strength” (Neh 8:10). “not under compulsion, but willingly” – of an enthusiastic spirit – a ready mind.

Yes the pastor’s job is often difficult, but what a joy! That joy, that willingness is the spiritual pulse of the congregation. Everything stands and falls by leadership.

The pastor must maintain a sense of the spiritual pulse of the church. He must prayerfully discern the will of God and like Moses of old, communicate to the church when we have “compassed this mountain long enough” (Deut. 2:3).

### LEAD WITH EFFORT

Not only should a pastor oversee with enthusiasm, but that enthusiasm leads him to give more and more effort. “The joy of the Lord is my strength” (Neh 8:10). A leader and overseer is really a servant. It takes great effort. We are not to be barking orders at people. **1 Peter 5:3**, “**not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock**.” The pastor is not a lord—but a fellow brother. He serves under the Great Shepherd of the sheep, the Lord Jesus Christ. He does not exalt himself, but he preaches and exalts the King of kings and Lord of lords!! He bows his knee before Christ each day.

The pastor is to demonstrate humility and meekness. These traits are the strength of leadership. It is a proper understanding of position that translates into a right heart in the exercise of leadership. David said in **Psalm 84:10**, “**a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.**” That’s all pastors and elders are – we are doorkeepers. God is the owner; we are just humble servants.

And as a servant, we do what our Lord says. We are not “domineering,” but gently and humbly and lovingly serving.

### LEAD AS AN EXAMPLE

**1 Peter 5:3**, “not domineering over those in your charge, but being **examples** to the flock.”

Shepherds are to become sufficiently involved in the lives of the flock that they establish a godly pattern for the people to follow.

An example is a prototype, a mold to be duplicated. **1 Timothy 4:12-13**, “Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. 13 Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.”

## 4. SHEPHERDS ARE CALLED TO RECEIVE A CROWN FOR THE FLOCK (5:4)

“And when the **chief Shepherd** appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory” (1 Pet 5:4). The pastor will, like everyone else, appear before the throne of God on Judgment Day. We will all give an account. And so, his motive for all he does is first, to honor the chief shepherd. We are going to concede God’s flock back to God. It’s not the flock of the shepherds of Living Hope. This is the flock of God. He laid down his life for the sheep. You belong to Jesus. One day Jesus is coming back for his dear flock. He knows you all by name. He’s written you down in his book, the book of Life.

### GIVE ACCOUNT TO THE CHIEF SHEPHERD

**Chief Shepherd** is one of the most beautiful titles for the Savior in all of Scripture. The shepherd imagery for Messiah first appears in the Old Testament (Zech. 13:7; cf. Ps. 23:1).

At the Second Coming shepherds **will receive the unfading crown of glory**. In the Greco-Roman world of Peter’s day, crowns rather than trophies were the awards for victory at athletic events:

“Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable” (**1 Cor 9:24–25**)

Temporal crowns would eventually rust, fade, or, if made from plants, die quickly. Peter was not looking forward merely to some **unfading** version of an earthly **crown**, but metaphorically to eternal **glory**, which can never fade.<sup>2</sup>

### GIVE ACCOUNT FOR THE SHEEP

**Hebrews 13:17**, is very convicting: “...your leaders... are **keeping watch over your souls**, as those who will have to give an **account**. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.”

Or another sobering command to elders in **Acts 20:28**, “Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers**, to care for the church of God, **which he obtained with his own blood.**”

<sup>2</sup> John MacArthur, Jr. *1 Peter* (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2004), 270–271

### RECEIVING THE UNFADING CROWN OF GLORY

“And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory” (1 Pet 5:4). One day we are going to receive a reward for what we did with all that Christ gave us. To whom much is given, much will be required. That requirement will be gracious. God gives his servants crowns.

I believe we are all going to be like the elders in the book of Revelation who cast their crowns before the Lord. He is worthy isn't he? Being a leader is such a high and holy calling. Paul said he had the daily care of all the churches.

#### Conclusion: Peter, a Rock? Wow!

Christ's undershepherds face a daunting task, but faithful oversight brings eternal reward in the form of greater service and joy in the Lord's heaven: “His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master'” (Mt 25:23).<sup>3</sup>

Isn't it amazing that Jesus gave Peter a new name? Simon (which means “Hearing One” – coming from Deut. 6, the “*Shama*”) is Peter's Jewish name. Peter or Cephas is the surname Jesus gave him – it means “the **Rock**.” The first meeting Jesus had with Simon, He addressed him, John 1:42, “When Jesus saw him, He said, 'You are Simon, son of John. You will be called Cephas' (which means “Rock”).”

Peter is so unstable, but Christ turns him into a rock!<sup>4</sup> Jesus spent more time with Peter than with any of the others, partly because Peter was constantly at the Lord's side. He was never far from Jesus and was continually asking Him questions, seeking the Lord. That's the secret to leadership. Walk with Jesus.

Let's all say with Paul, “Follow me as I follow Christ” (1 Cor 11:1)

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> William Stuart McBirmie. *The Search for the Twelve Apostles* (Carol Stream: Tyndale Momentum, 2003), Kindle Locations 602-605