I Peter 5:1-4

*Lead By Example*

Introduction:

1. I Peter 5:3 *Lead by example.* I know that Peter is talking to *elders (spiritual leaders in the*

 *church*). Everyone is a *leader* somewhere…dads, moms, grandparents, overseers

 somewhere. In the broader picture of America…police, mayors, judges, president, etc.

2. What kind of leader is needed for hard times?

3. I Peter 5:1-4 tells us:

What kind of leader is needed for hard times?

**I. HIS RELATIONSHIP 5:1**

 **A vital personal experience with Jesus Christ is needed.**

 ***A. A Servant 1a***

*Who is an elder among you.* Instead of *elder* by application we will use *leader.*

1. Peter was an apostle, an original 12 disciples, but he chose to identify himself with the spiritual leaders of this local church.
2. When you are a leader…we are in this boat together. There are no ‘chiefs’ in God’s tribe. He is the chief. We are co-laborers.
3. A leader must have the right heart with the right attitude.
4. You are where you are by God’s design. Be it husband, wife, mother, father, boss, laborer. You have been placed there by God’s appointment.

 ***B. A Sharer 1b***

*A witness of the suffering of Christ*

1. There are two ways to take this statement: Personally, Peter was with Christ from Gethsamane to Golgatha. Practically, There must be a living, thriving relationship with Christ. Proclaim this Good News!
2. It is possible to be a leader and never be saved and deny that salvation through Jesus Christ.
3. A leader should be a witness by life and by lip of Jesus Christ and what He did and what He can do.

 ***C. A Supplier 1c***

*A partaker of the glory that shall be revealed.* This was so on the Mt. of

 Transfiguration…BUT MORE!

1. A *partaker* is not future or past, but present (NOW)!
2. This is the life of Christ living in them, through them, showing all a glimpse of Christ in their daily living. **Surrender…Separation…Sacrifice** *Channels only blessed Master but with all thy wondrous power, flowing through us thou canst use us every day and every hour.*
3. Does God have me?

What kind of leader is needed for hard times?

**II. HIS RESPONSIBILITY 5:2,3**

 **A loving concern for what God loves is needed.**

1. ***Feed...the Word***

 *Feed the flock…be shepherds to God’s flock…Flock* let’s apply that to those you lead.

1. *Feed* is literally…*tend, shepherd, care for*
2. The Word of God must be of primary importance if we are to lead correctly. I must continually feed on the Word if I am to feed those that God has placed in my ‘flock’.
3. Care for…seek the wandering lamb. Be patient as they grow. The *flock* belongs to God. We often forget that and the ‘flock’ becomes mine. I have my ideas…my plans…my dreams. What does God have in mind for what is His?
4. ***Fend*...*the Watch***

*Take oversight…oversee…lead*

1. A *Bishop* is over. A *Shepherd* is among and over. As a *Shepherd* he is among. As a leader he is over.
2. Know those you lead and endeavor to aid, help, encourage through the Word and your presence.
3. He will be on the lookout for wolves. In the 21st century there are plenty.
4. There are dangers to avoid as a leader:

**\*Motive** *Not because you must…not compulsion or constraint, but willingly.* Your placement must not be a job to perform. This is God’s assignment for you. A shepherd’s heart will have a love for those you lead and serve them, not because you ‘have to’ but because you want to.

**\*Money** *Not for filthy lucre (stuff) but of a ready mind (eagerly)* Making money and accumulating things cannot be what drives a leader. *Willingly…eager to serve…*you come not to be ministered unto, but to minister. If you are waiting for applause or thanks…it may never come!

***C. Follow...the Walk***

 *Being an example*

1. *Neither being lords over…lording it over* There is a contrast between dictatorship and leadership. Rules without relationship leads to rebellion. Watch how you lead.
2. *God’s heritage* means, *to be chosen by lost…*allotted. The Lord assigns His workers where He chooses. The people to whom we serve are there by God’s design. What we do must please Him. Also, the cares, burdens, frustrations must be His. If He assigns…He must provide. What if the under shepherd fails? There are times that you will. We are all human. Ps. 23 *The Lord Is My Shepherd…I shall not want!*
3. *But being examples to the flock* which means that others should and will follow. *Examples* is copy, mimic, be a model to…More is caught than taught. The word is a continual action word…continually becoming examples. None of us ever arrive, but we should be on the journey. There should be no double standard: should you swear (do you want those who follow you to swear)…should you drink or take drugs (do you want those who follow you to drink or take drugs)…should you be kind, caring, forgiving (do you want those who follow you to be kind, caring, forgiving)?

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**III. HIS RELIABILITY 5:4**

 **A desire to please Christ alone is needed.**

1. ***His Accountability***
2. *When the Chief Shepherd comes…shall appear.*

 **\*Jesus is coming. We will give an account to Him!**

 **\****The Chief Shepherd…the church is His.* The people you lead are His. It is His

 work. Someone may sign your paycheck, but you work for Him!

***B. His Award***

 *You shall receive a crown of glory that fades not away.*

1. No one sees. No one cares. Quit feeling sorry for yourself. God sees and God takes note! Live for that which will last an eternity.
2. Who is Bob Hayes…Bob Richards…Bob Mathias? All were Olympic champions. All are faded memories.
3. Things are not always as you would like. Here a reward is given for being faithful to God’s flock!
4. This reward fades not away. What an encouragement to not quit!

What kind of leader is needed for hard times?

**A vital personal experience with Jesus Christ is needed.**

**A loving concern for what God loves is needed.**

**A desire to please Christ alone is needed**.

***I need to be reminded that the work is His, BUT I am here by God’s design!!***