

First Thoughts - Humility

Who taught you to be humble? If no one did, how did you learn humility?

What does it look like when you humble yourself?

How do you tell the difference between being humble and being self-demeaning?

Time in the Word

Read 1 Peter 5:17.

What words or phrases stand out to you? Why?

What does *submit yourself to your elders* mean to you?

In verse 6, it mentions being lifted up in due time. Explain what that says to you.

Verse 7 says, *cast all your anxiety on Him because he cares about you*. How are you doing at that?

Discussion

Do you have a social group/flock you spend a lot of time with?

How would you describe the group behavior or dynamic?

Who leads? How are decisions made? How are conflicts resolved?

Do you need a new flock?

What are some of the flocks the world provides? Who do the flocks belong to?

What brings these groups/flocks together?

Why are people drawn to these groups versus the church?

Have you ever heard the expression *laying your burdens at the foot of the cross*? This idea of yielding or giving up things to God's grace and power is comforting to some and challenging to others. What have you yielded to God? Have you picked up anything again after laying it down? What do you think drives that behavior?



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why we exist

The purpose of the church is to bring glory to God.

Our Mission
what we do

Love God • Love People • Make Disciples

Our Core Values
how we do it

Worship - lifting up the name of the Lord Jesus Christ
Connect - living in community, loving and supporting one another
Grow - equipping believers to live in obedience to God's Word
Serve - helping people discover and use their God-given talents
Reach - transforming lives and communities with the good news of Jesus Christ

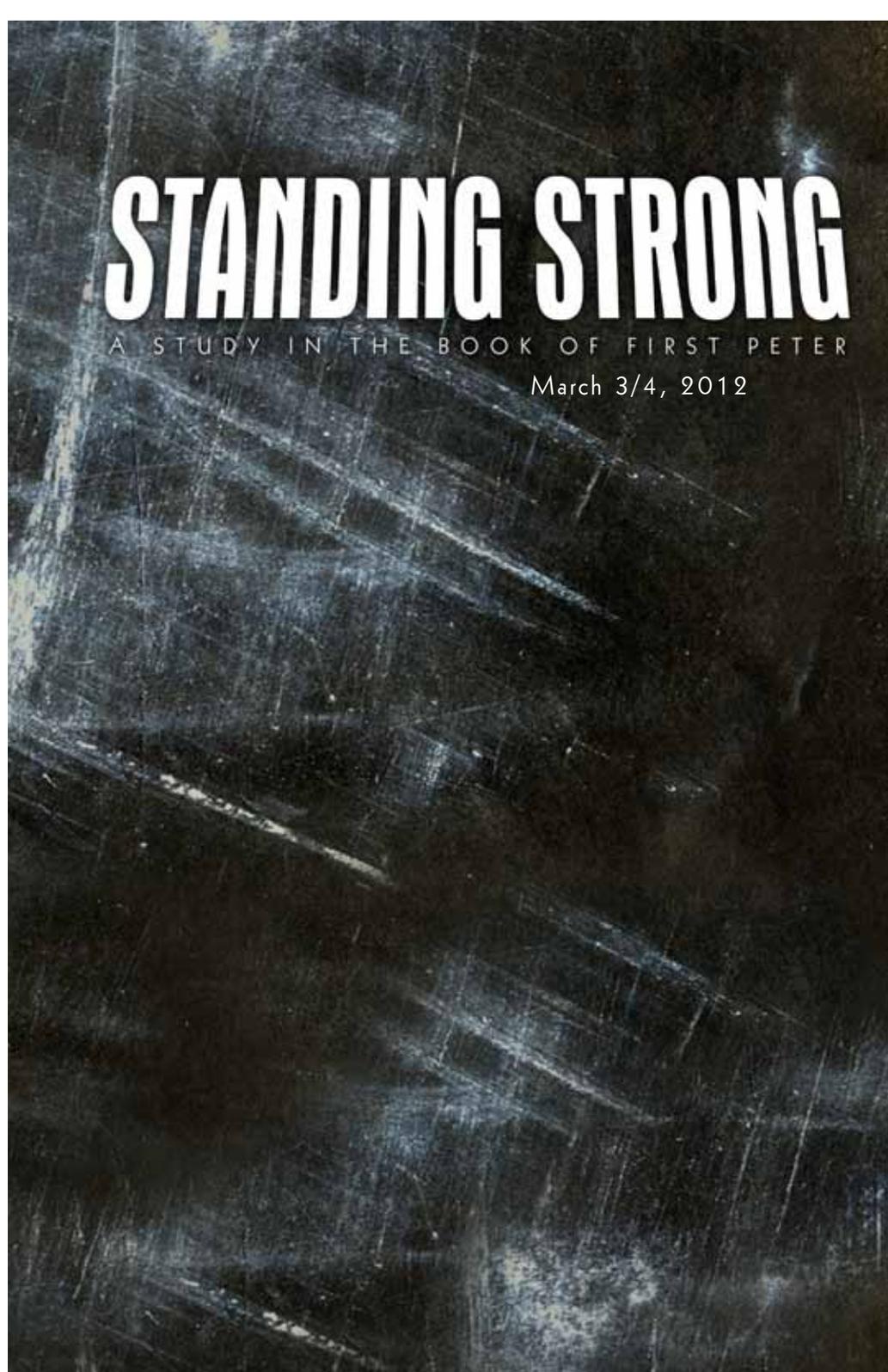
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Sermon Notes

STAND STRONG in God's Flock

1 Peter 5:1-7

Pastor Jon Byron

To the elders 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: 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; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. In the same way, you who are younger, 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."

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:1-7 (NIV)

Two important truths that guide and govern functioning in God's flock:

1. It has been, still is, and always will be _____.

Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care... 1 Peter 5:2 (NIV)

The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing. Psalm 23:1 (NIV)

God, the Master, says: "From now on, I myself am the shepherd. I'm going looking for them. As shepherds go after their flocks when they get scattered, I'm going after my sheep. I'll rescue them from all the places they've been scattered to in the storms. I'll bring them back from foreign peoples, gather them from foreign countries, and bring them back to their home country. I'll feed them on the mountains of Israel, along the streams, among their own people. I'll lead them into lush pasture so they can roam the mountain pastures of Israel, graze at leisure, feed in the rich pastures on the mountains of Israel. And I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep. I myself will make sure they get plenty of rest. I'll go after the lost, I'll collect the strays, I'll doctor the injured, I'll build up the weak ones and oversee the strong ones so they're not exploited." Ezekiel 34:11-16 (Message)

The shepherd walks right up to the gate. The gatekeeper opens the gate to him and the sheep recognize his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he gets them all out, he leads them and they follow because they are familiar with his voice. They won't follow a stranger's voice but will scatter because they aren't used to the sound of it. John 10:2-5 (Message)

I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd puts the sheep before himself, sacrifices himself if necessary. John 10:11 (Message)

2. A principle virtue expressing God's shepherd heart toward His flock is _____.

All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." 1 Peter 5:5 (NIV)

So he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. John 13:4-5 (NIV)

You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. John 13:13-15 (NIV)

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. Philippians 2:3-4 (NIV)

How can we function with humility in God's flock?

By heeding three imperatives:

1. To _____ humbly

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; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. 1 Peter 5:2-4 (NIV)

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep." John 21:15-17 (NIV)

2. To _____ humbly

In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders... 1 Peter 5:5 (NIV)

Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. Luke 2:51 (NIV)

So Jesus said, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me." John 8:28 (NIV)

Jesus answered, "My teaching is not my own. It comes from the one who sent me." John 7:16 (NIV)

The glory of young men is their strength, gray hair the splendor of the old. Proverbs 20:29 (NIV)

3. To _____ humbly

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:6-7 (NIV)

So do not worry, saying, "What shall we eat?" or "What shall we drink?" or "What shall we wear?" For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Mathew 6:31-33 (NIV)

Remember in all things be _____ before God. It positions us

to receive _____, that we may better extend

_____ to others.



Memory Verse

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time.
1 Peter 5:6 (NIV)

Monday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Review the sermon outline and read through all the verses. Through which verse did God speak to you? Spend time meditating on the verse. What do you sense God saying to you?

What illustration or example from the sermon helps you to stand humbly in God's flock?

Read John 21:15-17. Why do you think Jesus asked Simon if he loved Him before Jesus asked Simon to feed His sheep? Why would this be a qualification for leading people?

Tuesday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Read 1 Peter 5:1-14. Why do you think Peter is addressing the qualifications for shepherding the flock during a time of persecution (verses 1-2)?

Read John 10:12-14. How can you expand your answer to the question above?

How are we instructed to shepherd God's flock?

Wednesday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Read 1 Peter 5:1-14. Who is the Chief Shepherd in verse 4 (see also John 10:11)?

Read 1 Corinthians 9:25, 2 Timothy 4:8, James 1:12, Revelation 2:10; 3:11 and 4:10-11. To what are these verses referring? Why is this important?

Thursday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Read 1 Peter 5:1-14. In what areas of your life are you choosing to forgo or relinquish God's grace because of pride or arrogance (verse 5)? Why do you respond this way?

Why is humility a good trait?

In your places of influence, how can you lead with greater humility?

What responsibility do the sheep have to the Shepherd (see also Hebrews 13:17)?

Friday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Read 1 Peter 5:1-14 and Psalm 55:22. What anxiety or care do you need to cast upon the Lord (verses 6-7)?

How is verse 7 comforting to you? How is it humbling?

In what situations do you find it difficult to trust the Lord's care for you?

Personal Reflection & Application

How is God calling you to humbly learn His lesson through His chosen circumstance or instrument?

How are you resistant to learning the next thing God might have for you?

Reaching Out

Humbly ask your family, employees or small group how you can improve your shepherding leadership.