

For Shepherds Only(*Our Father gives according to what we need, not what we want.*)

[*To all the elders and shepherds of the existing six tribes, tending daily to the sheep entrusted into their care.*]
Rom 12:8 —Leaders lead with zeal.

Elders are shepherds of the flock. They stand in a position appointed by our Father. They have the greater amount of faith and talents. Shepherds do not need encouragement so much. *They are encouragers.* They are encouraged by seeing how the flock is doing. They are encouraged by the Holy Spirit. They receive the benefits of the increase of the flock, which gives them encouragement, causing them to be steadfast and not up and down.

Shepherds radiate glory because they have the hope of glory. Ps 16:9 — Their inner self (soul) rejoices. They are encouraged. If a shepherd is depressed, everyone is depressed. That is why a shepherd always has a light spirit, a receptive spirit. They do not have a heavy spirit. Shepherds are sober minded but they do not have a heavy spirit. They encourage *everyone*.

A shepherd would never walk by a lame sheep without encouraging him. They are diligent in the encouragement of the sheep. They do not just work hard and neglect the sheep, but our *main work*, our main ministry is to tend to the sheep. *Tend* means to minister to the needs of, to look after. This is our main occupation, not to just work, but we must shepherd as we work. A shepherd is not an oppressive task master as he works. He does not lord it over the sheep, but is an overseer of the flock. He imparts vision, hope, faith, and love which brings forth (engenders) vision, faith, hope and love in people. He is birthing these qualities in the sheep (Heb 13:7).

Sheep need to know and have the assurance that they are doing our Father's will. They also need to know when they are not. We need to be able to discern that. Shepherds need to make sure that the sheep are serving in the capacity and faith that they have to serve in. Sheep forget the will of our Father. They need reminding. They need leading. Authority always leads. Shepherds lead the sheep and equip them for works of service for the building up of the Body (Eph 4:12). If you are not doing this, then you are not naturally a shepherd. A shepherd is naturally inclined, disposed towards taking care of the sheep, making sure all their needs are met. If you do not notice that someone has no shoes, you are not a shepherd.

Shepherds, of all people, know how to manage the household of God (1 Tim 3:5). First of all they know how to manage their own household. *Manage* means to direct the affairs of the church, to train, to govern. Shepherds are responsible brothers. They are responsible, accountable. They must give an account of how they handled their responsibility, whether it was good or bad. They have a higher standard of judgment awaiting them, for they are accountable for what they did and how they did it. A shepherd is in a place of delegated authority. Authority has different limitations and boundaries. For example, a person cannot overstep his authority and discipline a child unless he is authorized by their parent. If you are a responsible brother you do not have to defend yourself or your authority. You do not have to tell people that you are a responsible brother. You are a responsible brother because you *are* and the sheep will respect you.

What is a shepherd? A shepherd is a man employed in tending, feeding, and caring for the sheep in a pasture. He is responsible for looking after them. We need to understand what a shepherd is. It is a gift; it comes forth naturally. Our choosing might be wrong, but our Father is not wrong. We must carry out our calling. We also must be in the pasture. That is why Christianity is not valid, because sheep are not in a pasture; it is only possible in the Edah, the true pasture. A pasture is a field where sheep have interaction with one another. It is a place with food and a place where they can be guarded from the wolves and where they can be shepherded. A shepherd cannot walk with his head in the air, for that is where the prince of the power of the air rules, but he must have his head covered (Eph 2:2). He cannot be receiving accusations about himself or others. Shepherds are skilled in care and not just plumbing. They must be able to work, but this is not their skill. They have skill and agility to guard sheep, to encourage and to impart vision, faith, hope and love. Shepherds have been assigned and appointed to that task (1 Pet 5:1).

Shepherding is equivalent to caring. Care means concern. Concern is the same as love. Love means diligence.

Diligence is one of man's most precious possessions (Pr 12:24; 10:4; 12:27; 13:4). If you have diligence and are diligent it is because you love. You love because you are concerned. If you are concerned, it is because you care. If you care, you are a shepherd.

Our love is going to have to be cognitive and behavioral, not based just on feelings. If it is based on feelings, we will not care for all the flock, because you might just feel love for certain people and not others. Also you might love only when you feel like it. Our love for each other must be both knowing and feeling. We cannot neglect anyone.

Shepherds are rulers, they rule well. We do not raise up the flock by law as you would children. Rather shepherds are graceful tutors who bring people to Messiah, imparting grace, love, faith, and hope whenever the opportunity presents itself. He is a man prepared to speak the word in season and out of season. Whenever the possibility of speaking passes us without us having spoken, then we are waning and decreasing.

Pr 22:29 —*Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will stand before kings. He will not stand before obscure men.* *Obscure*— darkened, partially hidden, depressed, down always, feeling bad. Shepherds will not stand before obscure men for they are skilled in love and care. They are always looking to love others, they are hospitable, they are not looking to be entertained, but to entertain. A shepherd is first to be friendly, open to others. David was a man skilled in music; he stood before a king.

A shepherd will prosper in every way and his progress will be evident to all if he is diligent to do what our Father says (1 Tim 4:15). Shepherds in Eph 4:11 are caring for the flock; they are, each one, responsible brothers who are leading sheep, natural leaders. Our Father picks out natural leaders and then He adds His grace so that these gifts cannot just be natural but spiritual. Most shepherds would have been natural leaders in the world if they would have been groomed. Since now we have the Spirit, we should even be un intimidated by conflict or to confront a person with the light. If you have a sword, you will be judged if you do not use it. A sword is for healing, cutting, restoring; it is for severing a person from the enemy (Rom 13; Jer 47:6-7; 48:10). A shepherd is a leading sheep who imparts wisdom because he has greater wisdom. You impart what you have, making up for the lack in others, of what they do not have. A shepherd imparts vision and encouragement. He will spend his life in doing these works that were preordained for him, making sure the sheep do the deeds that were preordained for them (Eph 2:10). Shepherds are constant in this. They know where to get wisdom and grace. No one has to be coming to them to pep them up. They impart the pep to others. They get their grace and wisdom from heaven. Shepherds cannot afford to fail; they cannot fail. If they fail, the whole Body fails. Shepherds have care. *Care* simply means concern, attention, caution, regard, looking towards with a view of safety and protection, oversight, making sure sheep are provided for.

Yahshua is the chief shepherd, but He works through men. Jesse was the shepherd, but David shepherded the sheep and had to give an account to Jesse. We are responsible and accountable to the Chief Shepherd (1 Pet 5:4). If we do not shepherd at all, we will be taken out of responsibility, but those who function as shepherds will grow in grace and giftings. They will be bold to encourage. We cannot be afraid or intimidated to approach people. We need to be courageous and embolden others (1 Tim 3:5). We need to make courage and boldness come to others. We need to make sure that everybody grows up into the head (Eph 4:15). We need to make sure that everyone is growing, getting more and more secure, steadfast, less sinful, covered. Some will even surpass us, but we will rejoice if we are part of the Body.

Shepherds are able to inspect the fruit. It is not hard to check fruit. They check the flock, family, wife and children. They need to make sure that everyone is exhibiting and producing the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22). A shepherd needs to be filled with the Spirit in order to be able to tell whether a person is filled with the Spirit. Shepherds make sure that people are devoted deeply to one another, affectionate towards one another. They must make sure that no one is indolent. *Indolent* means idle, listless, passive, dull in love, inactive in love; but a shepherd is warmhearted through and through. Shepherds are our Master's servants, ministers, and since this is their vision, they are full of hope and patience and are earnest and constant in prayer. Always practicing hospitality.

Shepherds are special agents, people who provide the catalyst to move things along; those who get things done. A shepherd is a person who is especially appointed and designed to bring about the complete obedience of the

faith. It is the Spirit who has stimulated his giftings and abilities. By faith we stand in the grace to do it. Grace is a spiritual active force to carry out what our Father desires, to bring about obedience (Rom 5:1-5).

A shepherd has grace to fully equip each person allotted to him (2 Cor 4:10). A shepherd will give account of how he equipped the saints and how the saints served. Eph 4:11-12 is to bring about Eph 2:10. Our Father provides the grace. We only stand in grace by faith (Rom 12:3; 15:2). Grace is the power to do anything. Nehemiah had the grace to build the walls in 52 days. He was commanded by the King. Mt 28:18 — As long as we have grace we can carry out what we are called to do (2 Tim 4:1-4; 2 Cor 4:1-5).

Shepherds do not get despondent; they respond and do not give up because of the great ministry we have received. They see the seriousness of what is going on around them, but they do not get despondent. Whether they feel like it or not, they respond. They always have the time to talk to people before they fall away. We are specially assigned, special agents, to get people to do the works or service with vision. If people fall into 1 Tim 4:3, then it is our fault. Our Father has ordained and appointed the Body as the place where every person can carry out the deeds preordained for them — which the shepherds make sure they do with all their hearts. We need to make sure everyone is serving with all of their talents. Everyone will have to give an account of the use of their talents whether they had ten or one. If we do not use all of our talents, then we bury them and we did not accomplish our Father's will. That person will be thrown out to the place of weeping and gnashing of teeth.

A shepherd is accountable, liable to our Father for his labor. Either he will receive a reward or punishment. We have to give an answer why we did not shepherd and why the saints did not respond. Sheep will not respond unless shepherds are functioning with grace. We will not have much grace unless we pray. It is with grace that the sheep will respond; you could beat them for a while, but they would only become despondent.

Shepherds are teachers. They need to teach at all times — at work, at the tables, gatherings, etc. This is beneficial and appropriate (1 Cor 14:26). The apostle Paul said in 2 Tim 4:7 and 1 Tim 6:12 that he had kept and guarded the faith, not only his own, but that of others. He said, “I am not responsible for the blood of any man.”

We are preparing for the race. When you are in a fast race you must exert all your strength (Heb 12:1; 1 Cor 9:24). You do not have time to bury your talents, get discouraged, waste time or live for yourself. Or else we will miss the target (1 Tim 6:20).

Heb 12:15 says: **See To It!**