

Life Link

Title: "The Three B's"

Big Idea: Peter has faced many trials in his life and his service to God Father and Jesus Christ. His writings are not the words of a philosophical nature but from his own personal experiences. One could say "he has been there, done that and bought the tee shirt." He rejected his Savior three (3) times (Jesus) during the crucifixion. Peter's rejection of Christ brought him to a place of humility and he learned that he must resist Satan. Peter compared Satan to a ravenous beast whose appetite for souls of men is never quenched. 1 Peter 5:1-4, Peter reminds those who are called to Christian service to remember that God has called them as under-Shepherd's to care for the flock of God until the Chief Shepherd (Jesus) returns to lead his sheep home. Peter calls those who God has called of their responsibility to shepherd the flock (John 21:17), to be a leader not and not dictator, to serve in an honorable manner with a right motives.

1 Peter 5:1-4 (Shepherd the Flock)

5 The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: 2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; 3 nor as being lords 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 does not fade away. NKJV

In our sermon text today (1 Peter 5:5-11) Peter turns his attention not to those who have been called to be care takers of the flock but, to all the sheep. Throughout the Old and New Testament the Word refers to believers as sheep, and those sheep need care and protection. Peter gives instruction and guidance to **Be Submissive (vs. 5)**, to **Be Humble (vs. 6)** and to **Be Vigilant (vs. 8-11)**.

Introductory Illustration: 1 Pet 5:8 KJV Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

There was an old preacher telling his people not to be afraid of the lion; not only is he under the feet of Jesus, but the reason he roars is because Jesus pulled all his teeth and he is hurting! He makes a lot of noise, but he cannot hurt us because our life is hid in Christ.

Read Sermon Text: 1 Peter 5:5-10 (Submit to God, Resist the Devil)

5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for

"God resists the proud,

But gives grace to the humble."

6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, 7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. 10 But may the God of all grace, who called us to

His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. 11 To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.
NKJV

1. Be Submissive (vs. 5)

1 Peter 5:5 (Submit to God, Resist the Devil) 5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." NKJV

Text Illustration: "Submission That word has received such a bad reputation that we rarely use it. It is the willful act of yielding to the power, control or authority of another. Submission is a voluntary act. It is a critical part of the learning process. Submission is a key concept in the Bible To be true followers of Jesus, we must learn to be submissive." (Source Sermon Central)

- a. In an episodes of "Star Trek" Captain Picard and the Enterprise crew are faced with the possibility of capture and enslavement by a much superior force, their adversary states that th the captain and crew that "resistance is futile". That is exactly what Satan wants us to believe. While it is true that resistance is difficult but, it is not impossible " with God all things are possible (Mk 10:27)"

Mark 10:27 But Jesus looked at them and said, "With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible." NKJV

- b. Resistance must start with humility and Peter states "younger people to submit to elders". The word used in the Greek carries the meaning of someone who may be youthful and also maybe newly regenerated spiritually. The primary root of this word in the Greek is the word new. Paul and Peter both use this term "babies" to describe new and spiritual immature Christians. For a person to come to a saving knowledge of Jesus we must submit to the authority of God but that attitude of submission must not stop there.
- c. James states that "God resist the proud" and "gives grace to the humble"

James 4:6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says:
"God resists the proud,
But gives grace to the humble." NKJV

1 Cor 3:1-2 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. NKJV

1 Peter 2:2-3 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, NKJV

2. Be Humble (vs. 6)

1 Peter 5:6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, NKJV

- a. Peter describes to what extent we should be humble. He use a word that is found only in this one scripture text. Peter states that those who are spiritually immature should be "clothed in humility" (v.5) Peter may have been referred to his experience in the upper room when Jesus the Master of the Universe and Savior and Redeemer "humbled Himself" and washed the feet of His disciples. This was and is the ultimate act of humility and an example to us that we to should be willing to be clothed with this kind of humility. That is the humility that is willing to become a servant of all. Humility is seen by the proud as a weakness but, in fact humility is the strongest and most desirable quality that a person can possess.
- b. Peter states we must be clothed (v.5) with humility, not the clothing of a king but that of a servant. It has been said that clothes makes the man, the proud person clothed in fine apparel will find it hard if not impossible to be humble. Peter may have been referring to the clothing of "sackcloth" this was the dress of a servant.
- c. When King Ahab heard the Word of God, he humbled himself by putting on sackcloth.

1 Kings 21:27-29 27 So it was, when Ahab heard those words, that he tore his clothes and put sackcloth on his body, and fasted and lay in sackcloth, and went about mourning. 28 And the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, 29 "See how Ahab has humbled himself before Me? Because he has humbled himself before Me, I will not bring the calamity in his days. In the days of his son I will bring the calamity on his house." NKJV

- d. Ahab demonstrated his willingness to humble himself before God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. His attitude was demonstrated by his willingness to dress as a servant and not as a King of Israel.

Text Illustration:

THE RIGHT PERSPECTIVE

A man was walking through an art gallery when he came upon a picture of the Lord Jesus dying upon the cross. He stopped and looked at the beautiful portrait of Calvary's love. As he stared into the face of Christ, so full of agony the gallery guard tapped him on the shoulder. "Lower," the guard said. "The artist painted this picture to be appreciated from a lower position."

So the man bent down. And from this lower position he observed new beauties in the picture not previously shown. "Lower," said the guard. "Lower still." The man knelt down on one knee and looked up into the face of Christ. The new vantage point yielded new beauties to behold and appreciate.

But motioning with his torch toward the ground, the guard said, "Lower. You've got to go lower." The man now dropped down to two knees and looked up. Only then as he looked up at the painting from such a low posture could he realize the artist's intended perspective. Only then could he see the full beauty of the cross.

Is the same not true in worship? Only as we position ourselves lower and lower in humble submission can we behold more fully the glories of our wonderful Lord.
(From David Moore's Sermon "In and Around Heaven")

3. Be Vigilant (vs. 8-10)

1 Peter 5:8-11 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. 10 But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. 11 To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. NKJV

- a. Peter gives a warning concerning the Devil, he is lying in wait to destroy you and you must be continually on guard.

Eugene Peterson in his Bible translation "The Message" translates this passage this way

1 Peter 5:8-10 Keep a cool head. Stay alert. The Devil is poised to pounce, and would like nothing better than to catch you napping. 9 Keep your guard up. You're not the only ones plunged into these hard times. It's the same with Christians all over the world. So keep a firm grip on the faith. (from THE MESSAGE: The Bible in Contemporary Language © 2002 by Eugene H. Peterson. All rights reserved.)

- b. Imagine yourself in the plains of Africa or some other country where lions roam free. While lions are very powerful and dangerous they are not known for the speed and agility like the cheetah or similar animals. The lion depends on his cunning and stealth to surprise his prey. Satan uses the same stealth and cunning to pounce on you, his prey. So Peter's warning is to stay alert and don't be lulled into a false sense of security thinking that you are indestructible. That sense of indestructibility is known as "pride" and it will bring you down before you realize it.
- c. King Saul, did not listen to the Word from God through the Prophet Samuel and as a result of his foolish pride was removed as King of Israel and lost his life because he fell in the trap which Satan set for him.

1 Sam 15:22-23 So Samuel said:

"Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices,
As in obeying the voice of the Lord?
Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice,
And to heed than the fat of rams.
23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft,
And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.
Because you have rejected the word of the Lord,
He also has rejected you from being king."
NKJV

- d. Resistance is not futile as Satan would have us to believe, Peter states that if we resist the Devil will flee from us. The strength for resistance does not come from our own strength but from God. Humility brings us strength through Jesus Christ and He is our only defense and strength. When Jesus faced the Devil in the wilderness He used the word of God to fend off the attack and that old lion fled from Him.

Text Illustration:

VIGILANCE, WAR, AND THE PRICE OF FREEDOM

"Eternal vigilance is the price of freedom" -- a familiar saying in our country. We remember from Pearl Harbor what it's like to get caught off guard. The enemy can be so deceptive: Japan's peace envoys were seated at the negotiating table at the very moment the attack was launched. Our country depends on a strong defense -- on being watchful so we are not surprised by a sneak attack and on being powerful so that we are prepared to fight when we have to. The same holds true in the spiritual realm.

On April 28, 1944, during World War II, Allied soldiers were engaged in Operation Tiger, a training exercise in amphibious beach landings in preparation for the D-Day invasion of Normandy. Suddenly, enemy gunboats appeared and killed over 700 American servicemen in a surprise attack. Today, a monument stands on Slapton Sands to commemorate the sacrifice of those young men who died while training for battle but were never able to enter the conflict.

That tragedy is a picture that warns the believer in Christ. We too are involved in combat with an enemy who is powerful and deceptive. That is why the apostle Peter warned: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8). (From a sermon by Larry Wise, *Facing the Roaring Lion*, 8/1/2010)

Conclusion: Throughout the book of 1 Peter, Peter has reminded Christians that God has reserved our eternal inheritance and this world is not our home, we are pilgrims and strangers traveling in this world as we journey toward our eternal home. remember the journey will not be easy. There will many dangers and difficulties and as we face the trials and tribulations of this life God uses them to develop our spiritual walk in this life. He (Peter) reminds the Christian that Satan is on the prowl and is seeking to destroy followers of Jesus. Thus Peter encourage us to watchful and not to be lulled into a sense of over confidence. An over confidence of safety and security when there danger. We must remember that Satan will attacks like a roaring lion that we are to resist him and he will flee from us. Our strength is not in our power and might but in God and only through our humility we shall be victorious in Christ Jesus.