

NORTHEAST HOUSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sermon: Spiritual Office, Part 3

Topic: Evangelist, Pastors and Teachers

Scripture Text: Ephesians 4:11–16

05/18/2014

Quote: God expects spiritual fruit, not religious nuts

Ephesians 4:11–16 (NKJV) ¹¹ And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

We have come to the end of our discussion on "Spiritual Offices" There are four listed in our focus passage as gifts to the church from Jesus. They are often included as gifts from the Holy Spirit but I have mentioned that I do not believe that to be so. They are Apostles, Prophets, Evangelist and Pastors and Teachers.

As I mentioned before, some of what I am teaching on is controversial among biblical scholars and commentaries. All do not agree. So, I have come to the conclusion that no matter which belief I teach I will be at odds with someone.

If I let that stop me, then the only one that wins is the Devil. God does not, Jesus does not because the Word is not being taught out of fear of being wrong. You do not gain because ignorance is not addressed and I do not gain because I would have failed at my calling.

When you think about it, hasn't the fear of being wrong restricted you from sharing the Bible. The solution for me is to study and to seek the answers relying on the guidance of the Holy Spirit but not being so dogmatic as if my knowledge is perfect and I must be willing to learn.

When you hear me quote other commentaries it is to indicate that my thinking is based on study and not just something floating out of my head. I do feel it is a guide to resources by the Holy Spirit.

One of the things that distress me most is to hear a Pastor say he does not have an opinion about a bible topic or to be standing in the middle trying to agree on both sides.

This last "Spiritual Office" is one that has some different opinion associated with it primarily being the question is "Pastors and Teachers" related to one office or two separate offices.

PASTORS AND TEACHERS.

I am convinced that the term "Pastors and Teachers" refer to one office. My first clue was that even in our writing we very rarely use the conjunction "and" multiple times toward the end of the sentence.

But know that our NT is a translation from Greek text.

Reference K. S. Wuest, (1997). *Wuest's word studies from the Greek New Testament*

The construction in the Greek does not allow us to speak of pastors and teachers as two individuals here. The two designations refer to a pastor who has also the gift of teaching. The two gifts go together in the divine economy, and it therefore follows that a God-called pastor is to exercise a didactic (***teaching, instructive***) ministry. That is, his chief business will be to teach the Word of God. His is a ministry of explaining in simple terms what the Word of God means. The word "pastor" is from a Greek word which means "a shepherd." The illustration is evident. The pastor is to bear the same relationship to the people to whom he ministers, that a shepherd does to his flock of sheep.¹

This definition most aligns with my understanding. There are others but this is not to be a lecture today.

Jesus, in His wisdom felt it necessary to gift the church with people called to fill these offices. This is the only office that carries two identities. That of a "Pastor and Teacher". It is true that the church may have others called to teach and not be called to pastor, but a Pastor is called to be a Shepherd and a teacher.

Pastor/Teacher - This phrase is best understood in context as a single office of leadership in the church. The Gr. word translated "and" can mean "in particular" (see 1 Tim. 5:17). The normal meaning of pastor is "shepherd," so the two functions together define the teaching shepherd. He is identified as one who is under the "great Pastor" Jesus (Heb. 13:20, 21; 1 Pet. 2:25). One who holds this office is also called an "elder" (see notes on Titus 1:5-9) and "bishop" (see notes on 1 Tim. 3:1-7). Acts 20:28 and 1 Pet. 5:1, 2 bring all 3 terms together.² J. MacArthur, Jr.,

Jesus is the "Good Shepherd" (*John 10:11,14*) the "chief Shepherd" (*1 Peter 5:4*). The association is many times made that Jesus is the Shepherd and we are His "sheep". Pastor means "shepherd". Those called to the office of "pastor and Teachers are to first be under shepherds of Christ to the sheep (followers) of Christ.

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¹ Wuest, K. S. (1997). *Wuest's word studies from the Greek New Testament: For the English reader*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

² *The MacArthur Study Bible*. 1997 (J. MacArthur, Jr., Ed.) (electronic ed.) (1809). Nashville, TN: Word Pub.

³ *The MacArthur Study Bible*. 1997 (J. MacArthur, Jr., Ed.) (electronic ed.) (1809). Nashville, TN: Word Pub.

Those of us that hold that office whether called Pastors, Bishops or Elders are given a charge to shepherd the flock.

*1 Peter 5:1–4 (NKJV) ¹ **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, servicing 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.*

In *John 21:15–17* (feed my sheep passage) Jesus says to Peter (called the first pastor of the church (*Matthew 16:18–19*, keys to the kingdom)) to FEED MY SHEEP. The feeding is to be of spiritual teaching.

For a Pastor it is not so much about preaching but about teaching. Our spoken word is only one form of our teaching. Our office requires us to:

1 Peter 5:2 Servicing 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;

I take everyone of those charges very seriously. But I know that all in this office do not. Now that you know you can be a better judge.

As under-shepherds we are to emulate Jesus as the Chief Shepherd we are also to emulate another of His attributes.

In the Gospels Jesus is referred to as "teacher" over 30 times. The Good and Chief Shepherd is also a great Teacher. His great commission is to go and "Teach."

I want to go back to the commentary made by K. S. Wuest,
The two gifts go together in the divine economy, and it therefore follows that a God-called pastor is to exercise a didactic (***teaching, instructive***) ministry. That is, **his chief business will be to teach the Word of God. His is a ministry of explaining in simple terms what the Word of God means.**

You may recall me saying that I try to put the cookies on the lower shelf so that everyone can understand.

How did Jesus teach?

Mark 4:2 (NKJV) ² Then He taught them many things by parables, ...

Parables were used to teach on a level that all the listeners could understand. So, I take that to be my calling as well.

As I rhetorically asked regarding the other "Spiritual Offices", is this one a valid one today. The answer is an emphatic YES!!!

I believe that the office of Apostle (sent one) is not like the one in the time of Christ though there are those that claim the title "Apostle" perhaps signifying that they are sent by their church. The Apostle office like the original Apostles is not needed as it once was then.

The office of Prophet from Christ falls into the same category but the gift of Prophecy from the Holy Spirit is still available today.

The office of "Evangelist" (The two above offices were decreased in need by the evangelists, men who proclaim the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ to unbelievers) whose need increased as did the need for teaching pastors.

Pastor Teachers are of the greatest need in the local church. Hurting people do not need a lot of preaching but encouragement, sometimes help, counsel, Godly correction and to be listened to.

But as in all the other offices there are counterfeits including false Pastor/Teachers. The more we understand their role the better we can protect ourselves against those that are false.

The shepherd and sheep relationship is personal. Shepherd/Pastor should know the sheep by name.

John 10:3 (NKJV) ³ To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

The Shepherd/Pastor should be willing to make sacrifices for the sheep.

John 10:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

I cannot give my life as Christ did but I should be able to give the sacrifice of my time, my genuine concern, direct church aid when possible, all for the flock.

The church belongs to Christ, He is the head. He did not build His church without preparation. He has provided what it needs for His purpose.

V14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

We are all members of the same body and each of has a responsible part. For some the expectation is greater as will be the reward or lack thereof.

Those of us that are in the office of Pastor/Teacher or even Teacher, much will be required of us therefore our accountability will be greater.

I do not hold this office in fear but in humility, for Christ loves the church and this church so much that He gave His life for it. He died for it therefore is it too much for me to live for it? What do you think?

Message Scriptures: **Ephesians 4:11–16**, *John 10:11,14*, *1 Peter 5:4*, *1 Peter 5:1–4*, *John 21:15–17*, *1 Peter 5:2*, *Mark 4:2*, *John 10:3*, *John 10:11*

END

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

We don't know who wrote the words to "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us." It first appeared in a children's hymnal compiled by Dorothy Thrupp in 1836, so some people think that Mrs. Thrupp wrote it — but that is far from certain.

But it is clear enough what inspired the words. Two scriptures come to mind. The first is Psalm 23, which begins, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." The second is the tenth chapter of the Gospel of John, where Jesus says, "I am the good shepherd."

And we know who wrote the music. His name is William Bradbury. Bradbury was a gifted teenage music student in Boston when he met Lowell Mason at the Bowdoin Street Church. Mason was a well-known musician who wrote the music for "Joy to the World" and a number of other hymns. Mason took Bradbury under his wing, nurturing his musical abilities. After finishing school, Bradbury moved to New York City, where he worked as a church musician specializing in children's music. He wrote the music for what must be the favorite children's hymn of all time — "Jesus Loves Me." He intended "Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us" to be a children's hymn, but it turned out that adults enjoyed singing it too.

A story related to this hymn is told about Ira Stankey, (**Ira David Sankey** (August 28, 1840 – August 13, 1908), known as *The Sweet Singer of Methodism*, was an [American gospel singer](#) and [composer](#), associated with evangelist [Dwight L. Moody](#). (The George Beverly Shea of his day)

On one occasion, Stankey sang this song, "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" at a public gathering. Afterwards, one of the guests pulled him aside and asked if Stankey had served on guard duty on a particular night in a particular place. Stankey, who had served in the Union army, said that he had. The other man said that he had served in the Confederate army. On the evening in question, he had started to shoot a Union soldier when the Union soldier began to sing "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Me." The Confederate soldier, who had often heard his mother sing that song, couldn't do it. Singing "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" had saved Stankey's life.

Why Do Sheep (WE) Need A Shepherd

Pets — 25 March 2014

If you have been to some farming lands, then you would have observed several flocks of sheep running here and there on roads and in nearby areas. When you watch a flock carefully, you would usually notice a shepherd guiding the whole flock of those sheep. Have you ever wondered why these sheep need a shepherd to accompany them? It is a common thought among people who stay in farm areas and villages. However, there are logical reasons behind this fact. Check out some of these common reasons behind sheep being guided by shepherds.

For safety purposes

Sheep are basically timid, fearful and gentle animals. When it comes to protecting themselves from predators, sheep feel helpless. Thus, many carnivorous animals easily make sheep their prey. A shepherd accompanies sheep in order to keep a watch over such predators. Shepherds can actually keep flocks of sheep away from such areas where they could become the food of other animals. They keep all these sheep at protected places so their safety can be ensured.

For guiding sheep

Sheep are not thought to be very intelligent. They often forget their routes when they go grazing. Thus, shepherds can guide them on the right way while sheep wander in a large area. Shepherds make them reach their habitats, as well as to places where they can find enough grass to graze on.

For governing sheep's activities

When sheep find an open area, they just start running from here to there. They may also indulge in activities that could be self-destructive. Thus, shepherds are very much required to take care of these sheep. Shepherds govern all the activities of a flock and help them survive in this world. Without a shepherd, a sheep could anytime be run over by a passing vehicle or be eaten by a cruel animal.