

God loves His shepherds. Abel, Abraham, Jacob (Israel), Rachel, Joseph and his brothers, Moses, David, to name a few. God chose a band of unnamed shepherds outside Bethlehem to share the history-changing news of the birth of His Son, Jesus the Messiah.

Peter, a fisherman by trade, was made a fisher of men and later named a shepherd of Jesus' flock, the church.

In 1 Peter chapter 5, Peter addresses elders in the church as fellow shepherds, with wise words for both shepherds and the sheep.

Because God loves His sheep.

I. Honorable Shepherds

- a. Recognizing *God's* flock
- b. Watching & willing as God desires
- c. Leading—and living—by example

II. Humble Sheep

- a. Clothe yourselves with humility
- b. Sheep need direction
- c. The stunning 176th verse of Psalm 119

III. The Chief Shepherd

- a. Will reward faithful under-shepherds
- b. Three descriptors of Jesus as Shepherd
 - i. *Chief* (Greek *arche*): top, head, original
 - ii. *Good*: John 10:11-15
 - iii. *Great*: Hebrews 13:20-21