

1 Peter 5

I thought the most fitting place to share from this morning would be 1 Peter 5. A great way to honour Grant and finish his series, but it also has so much to speak into our lives and circumstances as a church community.

Lets Pray

Who was Peter

- A guy with Jesus from the beginning
- one of the inner 3 of the 12
- I guy who you knew what it was to fail
- A guy to took risks
- Who boldly committed to never leave Jesus and ditched him in his hour of need
- The great scene on the beach: 'do you love me?' 'feed my sheep'
- Peter would go on to be the one who preaches the first gospel message and 3000 people give their lives to Jesus from it
- He would be the one who God instructed to take the Gospel to non Jews first.
- He was an Elder of the churches, he was a traveling apostle and preacher, not much is written of him but he was a massive voice in the church
- And he was Married

Who is he writing to

- Churches scattered to foreign countries because of Physical, economical and Spiritual persecution.
- Churches in this that had lost their stable incomes
- Were ostracized by their communities
- Had seen great friends in the churches dragged off and killed because they would not deny Jesus.
- A church under immense pressure
- A church going through drastic changes
- A church wondering if God even notices them, and if he is going to do anything.
- A church susceptible to distraction in this time.

Peter writes to give them Hope, to encourage them to stay the course, to not give up and although it all looks like God has forgotten about them he constantly reminds them of His eternal promises to them and that he will right the wrongs. It is not a letter of rescue, but of eternal hope- which is hard for us to grasp sometimes.

Us

And I know we are not going through anything as intense as they were but so many of the things he rights are to relevant and pertinent to us.

We are a church going through a lot of changes, we have been under internal and external pressure. We have the potential to forget why we are here and where we are going. we have the potential to loose our way and be distracted and so with hat in mind lets read.

1 Peter 5

1 And now, a word to you who are elders in the churches. I, too, am an elder and a witness to the sufferings of Christ. And I, too, will share in his glory when he is revealed to the whole world. As a fellow elder, I appeal to you: 2 Care for the flock that God has entrusted to you. Watch over it willingly, not grudgingly—not for what you will get out of it, but because you are eager to serve God. 3 Don't lord it over the people assigned to your care, but lead them by your own good example. 4 And when the Great Shepherd appears, you will receive a crown of never-ending glory and honor.

- This echoes so much of what happened on the side of the lake face to face with the risen Jesus. In many ways this is just Peter passing on the baton to the next lot of church leaders.
- Of course this is a reminder to the Elders, how how and why we Elder but, there is that subtle application for everyone.
- In the same way Peter is passing on what he received all those years ago, what do we have to pass on. What stories and circumstances have you learned from, what perspectives have you had privilege in seeing. what do you have that you can encourage someone else in.
- 'Success without a successor is a failure'

5 In the same way, you younger men must accept the authority of the elders. And all of you, serve each other in humility, for

*"God opposes the proud
but favors the humble."^[a]*

6 So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor. 7 Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.

- In the same way- Peter has used this the whole way through the letter, it relates right back to chapter two in a conversation about Slaves and Masters. and follows right through, talking about government authority, wives and husbands, and now young and old.
- This is written because order is important. Its not about Hierarchy but in keeping the order. Especially under pressure and change, to make sure we respect people and love people is so important.
- 'when you put yourself aside, you put yourself on Gods side.'
- Peter really calls the church to humility expressed through service.
- I love that we are a church with a servant heart., But can i call on you to choose this path even more. If you are not sure where you belong, or what you can commit to with all this change. commit to serving one another. This is through he organised church stuff and individually.
- in the right time God will clear the path ahead.

Phillipians 4:6-7 Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. 7 Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

8 Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. 9 Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your Christian brothers and sisters[b] all over the world are going through the same kind of suffering you are.

- Dont let suffering and change be an opportunity to give the devil a foothold.
- I dotn want to hear gossip, resentment or bitterness. I want us to be proud of how we lived through this season.
- dam metaphor.
- 'Dont let any bitterness take root'

Hebrews 12:15 Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many.

10 In his kindness God called you to share in his eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So after you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation. 11 All power to him forever! Amen.

Peter's Final Greetings

12 I have written and sent this short letter to you with the help of Silas,[c] whom I commend to you as a faithful brother. My purpose in writing is to encourage you and assure you that what you are experiencing is truly part of God's grace for you. Stand firm in this grace.

13 Your sister church here in Babylon[d] sends you greetings, and so does my son Mark. 14 Greet each other with Christian love.[e]

Peace be with all of you who are in Christ.

Lets stand firm, I still Hope and believe for Mosaic, I believe God wants to use us more than he ever has. I believe God is in the process of refocusing us on his heart and his heart for the people in our lives and in this city.

Please be encouraged, please be hopeful,