

Spiritual Leaders Are Humble (1 Peter 5:1-12)

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Guidelines: Protect confidentiality and follow the leader's prompts.

Lectio Divina Rhythms/Process (Repeat three times):

- (a) Read the Scripture passage ("Lectio")
- (b) Reflect on the focus question below ("Meditatio")
- (c) Respond in quiet prayer/journaling ("Oratio")
- (d) Rest in God's invitation for you then pray/share out loud if you want ("Contemplatio")

Introduction: Typical leadership advice today, even in many Christian circles, focuses on asserting yourself, enlarging your influence, and reaching your goals. As a young leader in Jesus' group, Peter followed that self-promoting and ambitious approach. But then he experienced failure, denying Jesus three times, and much suffering. In the Book of Acts and his epistles we see a mature Peter who has learned to clothe himself with humility, relying on the Spirit of grace and not his own flesh. The once reluctant foot-washer became the Christ-like servant leader of the 1st Century Church. Verse-after-verse in this chapter adds an important aspect to being a humble, spiritual leader like Jesus.

Opening Prayer: In Christ's humility... Consider others better than yourself (Philippians 2:3)

Read Scripture: 1 Peter 5 (NIV; brackets are NIV84)

1 To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: 2 Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; 3 not lording it 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 will never fade away.

5 In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but [gives grace] to the humble."

6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. 7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

8 [Be self-controlled and alert.] Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

10 And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. 11 To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

12 With the help of Silas, whom I regard as a faithful brother, I have written to you briefly, encouraging you and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it.

1st Reading: What is one word or phrase the Holy Spirit impresses on you? Meditate on that.

2nd Reading: Enter into the Scripture passage. What do you feel? What specific situation in your life today relates? Write down a prayer or pray quietly.

3rd Reading: What is God's personal invitation for you from the Scripture? You can write down what God may be saying to you or a prayer of thanks. Or rest quietly in God.