

“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. Don’t lord it over the people assigned to your care, but lead them by your own good example.”
1 Peter 5:2-3 NLT

[lectio] // 1 PETER 5:1-11

listen to the text by reading out loud slowly and repeat up to 3x if desired

A true elder’s attitude: Watch over willingly, not grudgingly. Not for what you get out of it. Don’t lord over but lead by example. Three powerful ways that elders can be a good shepherd that people will listen to and submit to: Attitude, service and humility. This is an elder’s call. Peter had been through so much! From fisherman to apostle, from rugged family business to pastoring and leading others in their walk of faith. From being a salty sailor to a humble servant. This was his path, his transformation. He came from strength to service.

[oratio]

pray as responding to the words, phrase, sentence that God has stirred within you

Dad,

I did not come from strength to service. I came from brokenness, fear and timidity. My story is so very opposite as Peter’s. I didn’t know who I was, where I belonged or IF I would have a life ahead of me. And, there were a lot of internal hurdles along the way - MOST of them in my head. These three charges from Peter are still challenging - attitude (I still carry an attitude problem, many times ONLY doing it begrudgingly!), service (I normally prefer to be in the background, NOT in front), and humility (I have a lot of false humility because I have “made it” from dysfunction and chaos to some form of success - I look down on those who still struggle). I am still learning to be a proper elder to those I lead. Help me, please.

[contemplatio]

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root