

Peter's Education

1 Peter 5

Outline

This is the concluding sermon in our series, "Elect Exiles: The Letter of 1 Peter." In the final chapter, Peter gives a flurry of encouragements and commands. For a number of these, we will trace back to when and where Peter learned this truth from his time with Jesus. That is, we're looking at Peter's education by Jesus – which he in turn passed on to us.

Peter addresses elders (*presbuteroi*)

- About elders and churches...

- How should elders conduct themselves?
 - Not under compulsion, but willingly (5:2)
 - Peter's education: "Follow me."

 - Not for shameful gain (5:3)
 - Peter's education: He saw Judas Iscariot's implosion due to the desire for shameful gain.

 - Not domineering (5:3)
 - Peter's education: "Do not lord it over, as the Gentiles do..."

Humility => Exaltation (5:5-6).

- Peter's education: Good Friday => Easter

Watch out for the devil (5:8-9)

- Peter's education: "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you like wheat..."

The concluding theme of the book: Elect exiles suffer "a little while" (5:10)

- They suffer because they are exiles. They suffer only a little while because they are elect.

To the Lord's Supper

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. Peter, a fisherman. What do we know about his education? Consider Acts 4:13.

2. Peter addresses elders in 5:2-3, but most of this applies to leadership in general. In what areas of life do you have some measure of leadership or responsibilities concerning others? How do Peter's words challenge you in this area? Be specific in what you need to do.

3. Do you believe 5:6 is guaranteed by God for you? What does "the proper time" mean? Think of what this meant in Jesus' own experience.