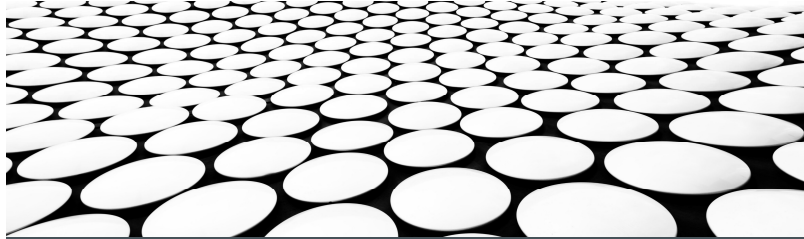


SHEPHERDOLOGY 101

FROM SHEPHERDLESS SHEEP TO FLOURISHING FLOCKS - SHEPHERDS' TOOLKIT



We need to understand what Jesus says about shepherding.

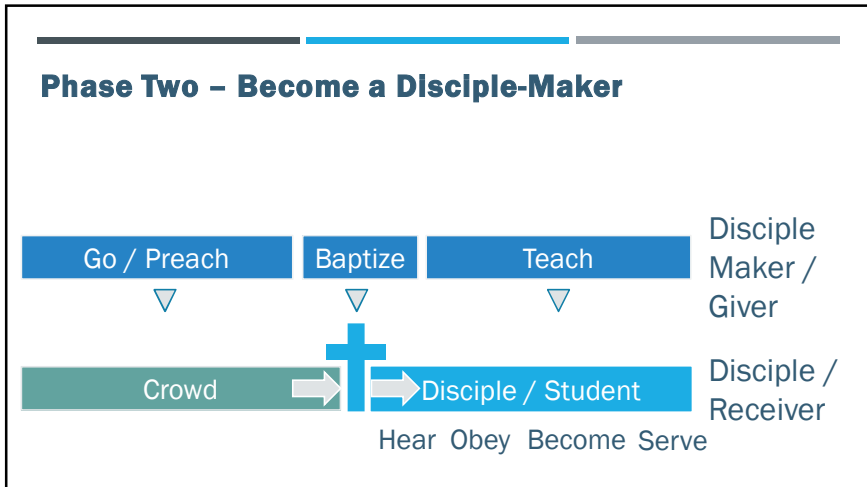
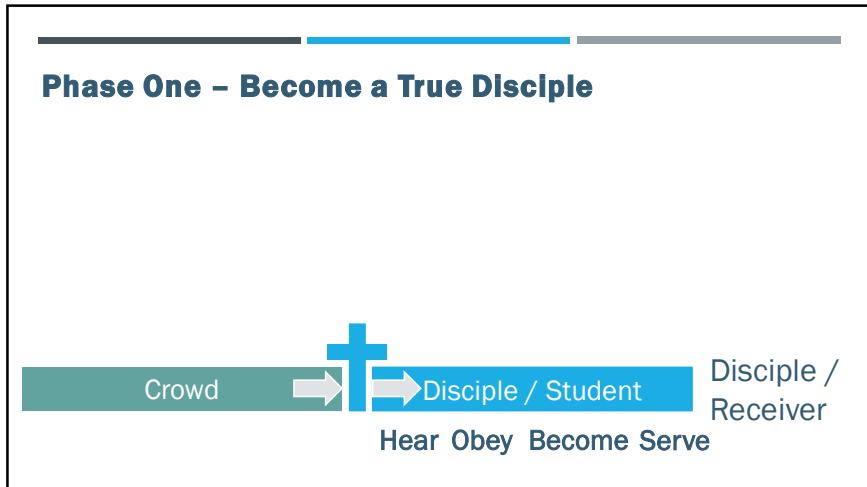
- I. Fundamental 1: Jesus, Our Lord
- II. Fundamental 2: Jesus' Word, Our Effective Guide
- III. Fundamental 3: Jesus, Our Model Shepherd
- IV. The Need for Shepherds – **Jesus has the perfect gift for our acute need.**

- V. The Development of Elders – **Elders are specifically called to step up as shepherds for the church.**
- VI. Ten Key Passages – **Shepherding Essentials found here.**
- VII. The Essential Function of Shepherds/Overseers/Leaders/Elders – **as seen through 6 lenses.**
- VIII. Specific Responsibilities of Local Church Leaders – **as discerned in 6 terms**

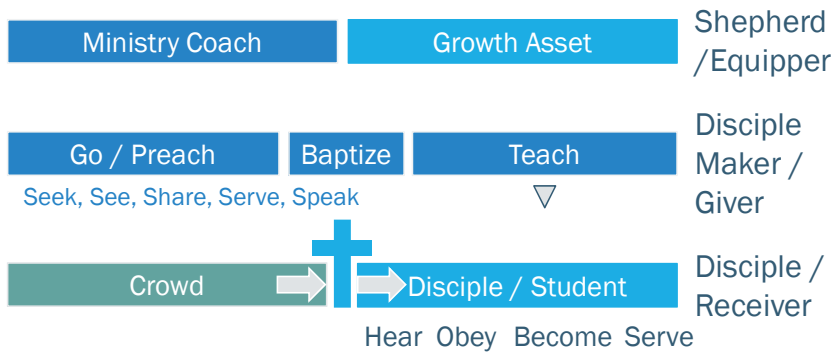
- VI. The Essential Function of Shepherds/Overseers/Leaders/Elders
 - A. **Elder:** Man of seasoned character and maturity
 - B. **Overseer:** One who understands his people and is watching out for them
 - C. **Shepherd:** One who feeds, cares for, and protects the flock

- D. **Leader:** One who governs by assessing and identifying what is best
- E. **Equipping:** One who trains and outfits others for growth and effective ministry
- F. **Manage / Care for:** One who is attentive to others in order to actively promote what is in their best interests

- VII. THE SHEPHERDS CORE FUNCTION - EQUIP (CLOSE-UP)**
- How Shepherds Equip the Saints (summary)**
- Promote robust spiritual health and ministry effectiveness (**equipping**)
 - So that saints translate faith/love into action (**work**)
 - And build the body/make disciples (**building up**)
 - By embracing their ministry calling (**service**). Help each one discern how God wants to use them as disciple-makers/body-builders, then help them do it!



Phase Three – Become a DM Equipper



VIII. THE SHEPHERDS TOOLKIT - TEACH

VIII. Specific Responsibilities of Local Church Leaders

- ✓ **Guard:** Alert to the condition of his flock
- ✓ **Teach:** Brings the Word to bear (5 ways)
 - A. Exhort
 - B. Refute
 - C. Admonish
 - D. Preach and Teach
 - E. Speak the Word

VIII. THE SHEPHERDS TOOLKIT

VIII. Specific Responsibilities of Local Church Shepherds

- ✓ **Guard:** Alert to the condition of his flock
- ✓ **Teach:** Brings the Word to bear
- ✓ **Illustrate:** Demonstrates a positive example
- D. Help:** Provides practical assistance
- E. Intercede:** Prays for key needs
- F. Show Hospitality:** Uses personal resources to serve others' good

VIII. THE SHEPHERDS TOOLKIT - HELP

- Paul demonstrated a vital shepherding skill.
- *"I have coveted no one's silver or gold or clothes. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my own needs and to the men who were with me. In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must **help the weak** and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'" (Acts 20:33-35).*

VIII. THE SHEPHERDS TOOLKIT - HELP

- The recipient of this ministry of helps is described as one who is “weak” based on the Greek word *astheneō* (ἀσθενέω).
- Paul describes Abraham as someone who was not “weak in faith” (Romans 4:19).
- But this word most often refers to physical limitation or sickness, which fits this context.

VIII. THE SHEPHERDS TOOLKIT - HELP

- Paul reminds the Ephesian elders:
- I did not minister for personal gain. I worked hard to generate resources that could be deployed for the benefit of others.
- Paul is calling on elders to follow his example: They are to find ways to deploy their money and resources to help those in their flock who are sick and weak.

VIII. THE SHEPHERDS TOOLKIT - HELP

- Paul’s counsel contrasts with a negative shepherding example from the Old Testament.
- *“Those who are sickly you have not strengthened, the diseased you have not healed, the broken you have not bound up, the scattered you have not brought back, nor have you sought for the lost; but with force and with severity you have dominated them”* (Ezekiel 34:4).

VIII. THE SHEPHERDS TOOLKIT - HELP

- Good shepherds care for the spiritual well-being of their sheep, to be sure, but they are also attentive to their material situation and looking for ways to help.
- This is proactive direct (person-to-person) material assistance.
- Such efforts are sustained by a big-picture understanding of poverty.

VIII. THE SHEPHERDS TOOLKIT - HELP

- **Graciousness to those in need is a form of worship!** *He who oppresses the poor taunts his Maker, But he who is gracious to the needy honors Him (Proverbs 14:31).*
- **It is also a pure form of “deed forwarding:”** *One who is gracious to a poor man lends to the Lord, And He will repay him for his good deed (Proverbs 19:17).*

VIII. THE SHEPHERDS TOOLKIT - HELP

- *And He also went on to say to the one who had invited Him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, otherwise they may also invite you in return and that will be your repayment. But when you give a reception, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and **you will be blessed**, since they do not have the means to repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous” (Luke 14:12-14).*

VIII. THE SHEPHERDS TOOLKIT - HELP

- For shepherds, this ministry of help will certainly be exercised towards one’s flock, but also extends to those outside.
- *So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith (Galatians 6:10).*

VIII. THE SHEPHERDS TOOLKIT

VIII. Specific Responsibilities of Local Church Shepherds

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VIII. THE SHEPHERDS TOOLKIT - INTERCEDE

- Is anyone among you *sick*? Then he must call for the elders of the church, and *they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil* in the name of the Lord; and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick (*kamnō, κάμνω*), and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him (James 5:14-15).
- James describes the “sick” using the same word Paul does (“weak”) in Acts 20:35.

VIII. THE SHEPHERDS TOOLKIT - INTERCEDE

- Paul calls for shepherds to “help the weak.”
- James indicates that elders should pray for these same individuals, too. James says, “Pray for the sick.” Paul would add, “Don’t just pray for them. Help them too!”
- James 5:14-15 is challenging to interpret on several levels.

VIII. THE SHEPHERDS TOOLKIT - INTERCEDE

- James clearly indicates that such a ministry of intercession can lead to miraculous healing.
- Faith believes what God has said, so a “prayer offered in faith” (James 5:15) involves prayer that is informed by what God has expressly declared.
- If God has communicated to the elders that He intends to raise this person up, then prayer fueled by trust in that statement will be effective.

VIII. THE SHEPHERDS TOOLKIT - INTERCEDE

- This prayer over someone should include “anointing him with oil.”
- Note that the twelve did something similar when they first went out: *And they were casting out many demons and were anointing with oil many sick people and healing them* (Mark 6:13).
- Anointing expresses consecration or devotion to God.

VIII. THE SHEPHERDS TOOLKIT - INTERCEDE

- It is performed “in the name of the Lord,” which would affirm that the one being prayed for belongs to God and depends upon Him for care.
- The bottom line is that elders should come as requested to those who are seriously sick and pray over them.

VIII. THE SHEPHERDS TOOLKIT - INTERCEDE

- Their interaction should include consideration of how someone’s condition may be related to personal sin.
- Where this is the case, they would encourage confession and ask for the Lord to forgive accordingly.
- As God declares His intent to restore someone, the elders should boldly pray in faith for God to do so.

VIII. THE SHEPHERDS TOOLKIT - INTERCEDE

- The elders ought also to apply oil to the one for whom they pray as a symbol of their desire for restoration in the name of the Lord.
- It is easy in our day to immediately call for the doctor while ignoring the fact that, in the final analysis, healing is the domain of the Lord. Calling for the elders to pray declares our reliance on God as our ultimate physician.

VIII. THE SHEPHERDS TOOLKIT - INTERCEDE

- So, when someone calls for the elders, what should be their procedure? The elders would gather in a home, perhaps at a bedside and do four things.
 1. They might ask, “What can you tell us about what you are facing?” Then they would ask, “How is your spiritual health? Are there ways in which your relationship with the Lord has gotten off track? We are asking because there are times when sickness and sin are connected.”

VIII. THE SHEPHERDS TOOLKIT - INTERCEDE

2. As appropriate, they would encourage a time of confession and then thank the Lord for His forgiveness.
 3. They would anoint the one who is sick with oil as a sign of trust in the Lord as the One who heals.
 4. They would pray for the one who is sick and ask God for healing and restoration.
- This is what shepherds do for one who is sick.

VIII. THE SHEPHERDS TOOLKIT - INTERCEDE

- Clarify: Job's friends came to Job to accuse.
- Eliphaz: *"Is it because of your reverence that He reproves you, That He enters into judgment against you? Is not your wickedness great, And your iniquities without end?"* (Job 22:4-5).
- Eliphaz could not be more wrong! Job is, in God's opinion, *"a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil"* (Job 1:8).

VIII. THE SHEPHERDS TOOLKIT - INTERCEDE

- **Yes, sin can produce sickness and death!** *Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. ...For this reason many among you are **weak** (asthenēs, ἀσθενής) and sick, and a number sleep* (1 Corinthians 11:27, 30).
- **But not always:** *"It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him"* (John 9:3).

VIII. THE SHEPHERDS TOOLKIT - INTERCEDE

- So when the elders are called to the home of one who is sick/weak, we don't assume that this is the result of sin.
- But according to James, we don't rule it out, either.

VIII. THE SHEPHERDS TOOLKIT

VIII. Specific Responsibilities of Local Church Shepherds

- ✓ **Guard:** Alert to the condition of his flock
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- ✓ **Illustrate:** Demonstrates a positive example
- ✓ **Help:** Provides practical assistance
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- F. **Show Hospitality:** Uses personal resources to serve others' good

VIII. THE SHEPHERDS TOOLKIT – SHOW HOSPITALITY

- “Hospitable” (*philoxenos*, φιλόξενος) denotes a qualification for an elder (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8).
- This same adjective elsewhere describes a ministry enjoined upon all saints: “**Be hospitable** to one another without complaint” (1 Peter 4:9).
- The cognate noun, “hospitality” (*philoxenia*, φιλοξενία), is also found in exhortations to saints in general.

VIII. THE SHEPHERDS TOOLKIT – SHOW HOSPITALITY

- Here are two examples:
- **This is a “one another” command:** Be devoted to one another in brotherly love ... practicing **hospitality** (Romans 12:10, 13).
- **But it also benefits “strangers:”** *Do not neglect to show **hospitality** to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it* (Hebrews 13:2).

VIII. THE SHEPHERDS TOOLKIT – SHOW HOSPITALITY

- Clearly, elders are to provide a healthy model of a hospitality ministry for the congregation to observe.
- From a practical standpoint, this suggests the willingness of an elder to place at the disposal of other saints that which God has entrusted to him.
- He does so with discrimination: He makes what is his available to others when it will serve their true good or advance the cause of Christ.

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ESSENTIAL FUNCTION

- Elder:** Man of seasoned character and maturity
- Overseer:** One who understands his people and is watching out for them
- Shepherd:** One who feeds, cares for, and protects the flock
- Leader:** One who governs by assessing and identifying what is best
- Equipping:** One who trains and outfits others for growth and effective ministry
- Manage / Care for:** One who is attentive to others in order to actively promote what is in their best interests

TOOLKIT

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THE SHEPHERDS CHALLENGE

- How is it possible for us to even come close to fulfilling all that Jesus expects of His under-shepherds?
- Shepherds don't do everything at the same time. They select the right tool for the moment.
- There may be different levels of emphasis among shepherds. Some, but not all, "work hard at preaching and teaching" (1 Timothy 5:17).

THE SHEPHERDS CHALLENGE

- Nonetheless, this is still a daunting list!
- Peter makes a relevant comment. Shepherds should do what they do from a conviction that this is God's will for them.
- *Shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God (1 Peter 5:2).*

THE SHEPHERDS CHALLENGE

- “The will of” is implied: *Shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to **the will of God** (1 Peter 5:2).*
- “According to God” means “because God wills it.” Peter wants shepherds to embrace the role of a shepherd because they sense this is something God is specifically calling them to do.

THE SHEPHERDS CHALLENGE

- Shepherds who embrace God’s call enjoy an incredible benefit:
- *Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, **equip** [katartizō, καταρτίζω] **you in every good thing to do His will** (Hebrews 13:20-21).*

THE SHEPHERDS CHALLENGE

- God is the ultimate equipper who raised our great Shepherd (Now that’s equipping!) and who will supply everything we need to do His will as shepherds.
- *Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, **equip** [katartizō, καταρτίζω] **you in every good thing to do His will** (Hebrews 13:20-21).*

THE CALLED CAN DO THIS! HE WILL EQUIP YOU IN EVERY GOOD THING!

Elder: Man of seasoned character and maturity

Overseer: One who understands his people and is watching out for them

Shepherd: One who feeds, protects, and protects the flock

Leader: One who leads by assessing and identifying what is best

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Guard: Alert to the condition of his flock

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I will supply every good thing you need to do what is on this list – God.

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