

Sermon Discussion Guide

Date: October 6, 2024

Sermon Series: *Steady Sojourners*

Scripture: 1 Peter 5:1-11

Preacher: Jim Kramer



SUMMARY

Big Idea: Don't Worry, Be Hopeful

As Peter wraps up this letter, he charges the elders to shepherd God's flock, and for God's flock to remain humble, letting their submission to the Chief Shepherd be displayed through being subject to under-shepherds, the elders. Then, in v 6-11, Peter addresses reality of suffering and the anxieties that can thwart our steady living. The path forward? Humble trust in the "might" and "care" of God leads us to cast them on him. While there is a real adversary to be watchful for and to resist, we have a real advocate to trust in with certain hope in his restoration of all things.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

How do you know what people fear? (What criteria would you use to discern or measure?)
Using that criteria, what would you say you fear? What would others say you fear?

READ 1 Peter 5:1-5

1. Summarize Peter's instruction in your own words, to the elders (v1-4) and to the church (v5).
 - a. Why is this teaching important for us today?
 - b. Interact with the following quote: *"No one is going to grow spiritually in the context of a local church without submission... You can be the most faithful attendee in the congregation but not advance one degree toward greater Christlikeness because you aren't humble enough to follow the leaders God has called to lead you."* (full article [HERE](#)).
 - i. What makes this true? Hard? Needed?

READ 1 Peter 5:6-11

2. Real Anxiety, v6-7. How does what we do with our anxieties (hold or cast) reflect either pride or humility?
 - a. Why is it good news that God is both Mighty and Caring? What would be the effect if He was one but not the other?
 - i. How does being paralyzed by fear and worries reflect a lack of trust in one or both of those (mighty/caring)?
3. Real Adversary, v8-9. Are you prone to think about our adversary too much or too little?
 - a. What does this adversary "look like" in our world?
 - i. Note the context of 1 Peter and suffering, with the connection to Matthew 16:21-23
 - ii. For an OT background, consider God likening false prophets to 'roaring lions' in Ezekiel 22:25.
 - b. What then does it look like for you to "be watchful" and to "resist him"?
4. Real Advocate, v10-11.
 - a. What impact does Peter's description of "a little while" have on your ability to endure suffering?
 - b. How does Peter's contrast of a "little while" with "eternal" inform endurance?