

# Morning Lesson

## SERVANTHOOD – JANUARY

Matt. 20:26-28

### HOW CAN ELDERS SERVE?

1 Pet. 5:1-4

#### INTRO:

1. It is an honor to be an elder.
2. It is primarily a work to be done. **1 Tim. 3:1**
3. Elders serve under Jesus the chief shepherd and bishop. **Heb. 13:20; 1 Pet. 2:25; 5:4**
4. Elders practice servant leadership.

#### I. LEAD BY EXAMPLE

- A. Take heed to yourselves. **Acts 20:28**
- B. Be examples to the flock by having a pattern of good works.  
**1 Pet. 5:3; Titus 2:7**

#### II. LEAD BY OVERSEEING

- A. Some have taught the only power an elder has to lead is by example, but the scriptures speak differently.
- B. Elders are overseers. **Acts 20:28**
- C. Elders are rulers. **1 Thess. 5:12; 1 Tim. 5:17**
- D. Elders are to take care of the church of God. **1 Tim. 3:5**
- E. Elders have the rule over other members. **Heb. 13:7, 17**
  1. They must give account. **Rom. 14:12**

#### III. LEAD IN TEACHING GOD'S WORD

- A. This is implied in the characteristics. **1 Tim. 3:2; Tit. 1:9**
- B. This is stated and necessarily inferred in the command to feed.  
**Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 5:2**
- C. That which is to be taught is sound doctrine. **Tit. 1:9**

#### IV. LEAD IN REFUTING FALSE DOCTRINE

- A. Watch for false teachers. **Acts 20:28-31**
- B. Admonish weak and sinful members. **1 Thess. 5:12**
- C. False teachers must be stopped. **Tit. 1:9-11**

#### CONC:

1. Elders have a great responsibility.
2. However, they have the help of God and every faithful Christian.
3. The elder as a shepherd is a beautiful picture.  
**Psalm 23**
4. Remember that Jesus is our chief shepherd.