

Summary

In this final sermon on First Peter 5, the pastor discusses Peter's concluding encouragement to the church as exiles in this world. The message focuses on three key aspects of Christian living: humility, waiting with proper perspective, and resisting spiritual attacks. Peter reminds believers that while they participate in Christ's sufferings now, they will also share in His glory later. The sermon emphasizes that humble leaders lead humble people to the humble shepherd (Christ), and that during our waiting period on earth, we should cast our anxieties on God, remain sober-minded, and actively resist the devil.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather to discuss the final words of Peter to the early church, we ask that You would open our hearts to receive Your truth. Help us to embrace the humility that Christ modeled for us and to cast our anxieties upon You. Guide our conversation today, revealing what You want each of us to learn about living as faithful exiles in this world. May our time together draw us closer to You and to one another. In Jesus' name, amen.

Ice Breaker

What's something you were anxious about as a child that seems silly to you now?

Key Verses

1. 1 Peter 5:6-7
2. 1 Peter 5:8-9
3. 1 Peter 5:10
4. Jeremiah 29:7
5. Philippians 4:6-7

Questions

1. Peter describes Christ as the ultimate example of humility. In what ways can we practically follow Christ's example of humility in our daily lives?
2. The sermon mentions that 'humble leaders lead humble people to the humble shepherd.' How have you seen this principle at work (or not at work) in churches or organizations you've been part of?
3. What anxieties are you currently carrying that you need to cast onto God? What makes it difficult to fully surrender these concerns?
4. The pastor mentioned that our anxieties often reveal areas where we're trying to maintain control rather than depending on God. What area of your life are you most reluctant to surrender control over?
5. How does the knowledge that other believers worldwide experience similar struggles and sufferings encourage you in your faith journey?

6. In what ways have you experienced the devil 'prowling around like a roaring lion' in your life? How did you respond?
7. The sermon discusses God's promise to 'restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish' believers. Which of these promises resonates most with you in your current season of life and why?
8. As exiles in this world, how can we maintain our focus on our heavenly home while still seeking 'the welfare of the city' where God has placed us?

Life Application

This week, identify one specific anxiety or concern that you've been carrying and intentionally cast it onto God through prayer. Each time this worry resurfaces, practice immediately turning it over to God rather than dwelling on it. Additionally, reach out to another believer to share this burden, remembering that we 'never walk alone' in our struggles. Keep a journal of how God works through this process of surrender and community, noting any ways you experience His restoration, confirmation, strength, or establishment in your life.

Key Takeaways

1. Christ modeled perfect humility for us, and we are called to follow His example in how we relate to others and lead in the church.
2. While we wait for Christ's return or our homegoing, we must cast our anxieties on God, remain sober-minded about spiritual realities, and actively resist the devil.
3. We never walk alone in our struggles - other believers worldwide experience similar sufferings, and we can support one another.
4. God promises to restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish believers who endure suffering faithfully.
5. As exiles in this world, we live in the tension of the 'already but not yet' - already saved but not yet experiencing the fullness of our heavenly home.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for the powerful reminders in Peter's final words to the early church. Help us to embrace the humility You modeled, to cast our anxieties upon You, and to stand firm against the enemy's attacks. When we feel overwhelmed by the challenges of living as exiles in this world, remind us of Your promise to restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish us. Give us the courage to be vulnerable with one another, sharing our burdens and walking together in faith. May we live this week with our eyes fixed on You, our humble Shepherd, as we await the day when we will fully share in Your glory. In Your name we pray, amen.