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College Lectures-The Pastor revised

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COLLEGE LECTURES

"THE PASTOR"

No. 5 Revised

In our last study we tried to emphasize the value of preaching. There is however, another line of the minister's mission of equal importance and some contend of greater value in building up and maintaining a live congregation than pulpit work, and that is the pastoral.

Therefore, your sole mission as a Christian minister is not to preach, however eloquent and forceful you may be as a preacher. You must shepherd the flock over which you preside.

It is no small task to care for a congregation of two or three hundred members and keep any considerable number from straying from the fold. You must be wide awake and guard every exit and when one does slip out and act as foolish as the sheep in the parable the Master gave and goes into dangerous mountains, you must hasten after him and if possible, through love and tenderness win him back into the fold.

Jesus, in the parable of the shepherd and sheep gives a beautiful picture of the shepherd. He speaks of Himself as the Good Shepherd. If He is the Good Shepherd you can be the under shepherd, having His methods and spirit as your model.

"He that entereth by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. The sheep hear His voice and He calleth His sheep by name and leadeth them out. He goeth before them and the sheep follow Him for they know His voice. The Good Shepherd giveth His life for the sheep".

Here is a picture of your sacred task. You must give your life for your flock, and I do not mean figuratively, for you must spend and be spent in this life you have chosen. You cannot lie idly about having a good time socially, or even in your library enjoying your books if some of your sheep are straying from the fold and in danger.

"What man of you having an hundred sheep if he lose one does not leave the ninety and nine and go after that

which was lost until he find it. When he finds it, he lays it upon his shoulder rejoicing".

Leave your good faithful people, perhaps not giving them the attention you would be pleased to do and spend a little of your time out after the lost sheep. You know who they are. You miss them from the fold. You hear some ugly remarks about some of them on the street. It is your mission as a shepherd to save them if possible. You must at least make an honest effort to get them safely back into the fold. The Master says the Good Shepherd goes after the lost sheep until He finds it.

Let me carry this figure a little farther. Some months ago I was at the ranch and we were selling a band of sheep and I had some opportunity of observing their disposition. I found that they were foolish, senseless and hard to drive. They do but little thinking, quite like many people. They seemingly have neither judgment or sense,- again quite like some people.

We had a thousand lambs in the pasture and we were wanting to put them in some pens. We found it impossible to drive them. The shepherds could yell and scold all to no purpose, but when they got an old sheep with a bell on into the corral, the whole bunch rushed pell-mell after her. An illustration showing the value of leadership. *He leadeth me etc*

Then I likened some of the individual sheep to persons who have been brought into the Church. Here was the dirty old wrinkled faced ram who was enticed into the fold by some clever methods of the preacher, Everyone was jubilant over the marvelous capture of the old sinner, one of the worst characters of the town. It was a great victory for the cause, as many thought, and much was made over him. He would help us solve our financial difficulties. *But*

It was just a little different when that soiled black faced ewe came in. Many pulled back and looked wonderingly at her. How did she come to get into the fold? What was she doing there anyway? Surely she was out of her place. When a feast of good things was spread

for the flock she was crowded out. A time or two she tried to work her way into the trough, but was squeezed out and by one old motherly doe, even given a butt to let her know she was out of her place.

Well, in a little while the old ram, hedged into the narrow confines of the corral, began to feel uncomfortable. Then he heard the bleating of some of his old pals out in the brush. He began to snoop about for an opening, but readily seeing none, he bolted right through the fence and was soon back in his old haunts with his former companions. So the old fellow whose wool you washed of its dirt and filth so he looked fairly respectable, was merely a superficial job for you did not change his heart and his love for the old life and associates.

The blackfaced ewe could not feel at home for she seemed never to be welcomed in any group. She longed for sympathy and encouragement which she did not get. Soon she too felt the pull for the old life. It was comparatively easy for her to slip out as no one seemed particularly anxious to longer hold her in the fold.

You have held your meeting and many were converted as you say, but after a little while you look over your flock and you miss a large number of those you had captured and brought into the fold.

Those who have had charge of sheep or have observed their ways know how foolish they are. How some are determined to break through the guard and run wild, simply go to their own destruction. We find some people who act as foolishly.

Perhaps if the shepherd would take a little time to slip around through the former haunts he might find some of his sheep living the same old life.

This is hard work I know, chasing a lot of foolish sheep and keeps the shepherd busy, but that is the life of the shepherd, and you are to be a shepherd.

from page 4 3.

The shepherds told me that they were compelled to be very careful in guarding their sheep in the mountains, sleeping on their guns to prevent the mountain lions and coyotes from ravaging their flock. You too, will often have to sleep on your arms if you save your flock, for Satan is ever prowling around ready to destroy some of your members.

Some pastors are too well satisfied with their preaching. Good preaching is admired and helps mightily, for by that people are convicted and converted and brought into the Church. *Sweeney*

This type of pastor generally stops right here, satisfied with his splendid work. He makes reports to the papers with expressions of pride. He has accomplished great things, and he settles down quite satisfied, paying little attention to the numerous bars that are down, or breaks here and there in the fold through which his converts new and old slip out.

up to page 3

If you have the passion of the Good Shepherd for your sheep and are not merely hirelings, you will go far and near until you find your lost sheep and tenderly lead them back to the fold, and there nurse and feed them back to strength. You must be patient and tender and by and by they will come to enjoy life in the fold and instead of being a trouble, will help you in your work.

This, as before remarked, is a hard task, but when accomplished, there will not only be rejoicing here, but in Heaven as well, for the lost has been found.

You can hardly over-estimate the value of calling, for here you have the personal touch which is so vital. You cannot know your sheep and be like the Good Shepherd who "calleth His own sheep by name" unless you have some personal acquaintance with them. You must in fact, have personal relation with every member of your flock if you would serve them like the Master earnestly desires you should.

It has been said that the lawyer gets as far as your safe, the Doctor succeeds in getting into your bedroom and even into the intimacies of the home, but the pastor gets into your heart.

The Pastor - Cont'd.

I have heard of pastors who declined to be "door-bell ringers". I have noted that pastors who know something of the family life of their flocks, often being with them in their homes, are the ones that have their pews filled Sunday and their salaries paid promptly.

You must know something of the troubles, the doubts, the fears and the sorrows of your people in order to properly minister to them. To appear Sunday morning and Sunday evening with a great sermon and then drop out of sight as far as the daily life of your people is concerned until the next opportunity you have of exhibiting your great learning and eloquence, is a poor way to feed your flock.

In fact, many of them will not come to the feast in answer to the published announcement in your local paper, saying that a great feast will be spread Sunday at eleven o'clock and again at 7:30 in your Church. That advertisement for which you gave \$2.00 or \$3.00 is all right, but it doesn't call loudly enough for some far out in the wilds to hear. You can say in an attempt to justify yourself that if the fool sheep don't know enough to come to the feast, let him starve. You have done your part. You have read many books and studied late into the night to prepare the feast. What more should you be asked to do. You have a clear conscience. That will however, hardly measure up to the model set by the Master.

No pastor can go among his people, visit them in their homes, in their stores or shops, but will get an insight into both their manner of life and their individual needs. This will be a source of great power and usefulness in your ministry. It will help you to be a worthy spiritual leader. It is your sacred duty to be a Good Shepherd. Do not either fail the Master or your people.

Call upon all classes. Neglect neither the rich or the poor. Rarely will you meet one who will not welcome you. Keep your eyes and ears open to every beckoning from all classes and conditions. There are numerous occasions that demand a call. Be ever ready and respond in the spirit of Jesus and with joy or sympathy in your heart as the occasion may require.

The Pastor - Cont'd.

I remember at one time the Baptist Church at Fullerton was in a bad way. It had few members and was not considered a respectable organization. A pastor was called who proved to be a very indifferent preacher, but he was tireless in looking up members of the Baptist Church. His plan was to lay siege to a family until he anchored it safely in the fold.

Then he would go after another and then another and in about two years he had a large congregation and was able to start building a new church. The power of his ministry was his calling, not his preaching.

A pastor who fails to call upon families where there is sickness is derelict and certainly cannot be called a good shepherd. A man, a long-time member of a large church in a nearby city called on me, saying his wife had died about a year ago and both had been regular attendants at this church, but the pastor had neither called or written any words of sympathy.

Another, but not in the same church, told me his wife had been sick for quite awhile and his pastor had never called. In fact, had not been in his house for years. You can well imagine the attitude both these men have toward their pastors.

I only recently received a letter from a woman who said both she and her husband had paid up all their financial obligations to the Church and asked for their letters. For years the pastor had not called upon them and this shabby treatment had so ~~in~~ incensed them that they proposed to leave the Church altogether. I recommended another nearby Church but no, no more churches for them. Of course, that was a foolish attitude, but a wise, tactful pastor would doubtless have held them in the Church.

The absolute necessity for this sort of pastoral work is evident to all acquainted with the social longings of the human heart. Those who are most successful have not neglected this effective means of contacting the people of their own churches and of the communities in which they live.

Remember what Dr. Snape said

Chas. Brown, Dean of Divinity School of Yale University, says "will someone be good enough to find me, in these days, strong, stable, growing, generous, spiritually minded Churches where no pastoral calling worth speaking of has been done in the last ten years? I do not know of any such".

It doesn't make any difference whether you are in a big city town or the country, human nature is just the same. Your people will appreciate a kindly call from you. A few minutes spent at the bedside of some sick person will oftentimes do more good than a call of the physician. Go with a smile and cheering word and never dolefully. *The aged*

You will hear many interesting incidents and many pathetic stories and get a view into the inner life of your people by being with them in their homes that you would never have by seeing them only Sundays at the Church service.

Call of the aged
You will have revealed to you family secrets. No one will know so much of the inner life of the people as you will. All such knowledge must be held sacred. You must have kindly words of comfort and counsel, which you must not permit to be merely formal. *(over)*

W. to go
The firm word of rebuke and discipline may be needed and you must have the courage to give it. There is always the need of the spirit of patience and kindness in dealing with the thoughtless and the wayward.

Keep a careful record of your calls. The card system is perhaps the best method by which to do this. Have name and address of each member shown on each card. Give name of wife and children and dates of birth. Knowing this you can send birthday greetings. Have the record show when they joined the church and how and other facts and comments that will be useful. Record the dates of your calls.

Run through these cards frequently, refreshing your mind about your members. Especially when you expect to call, run over them and note items you may find it interesting to refer to and note how best you can approach them. This will at least enable you to call by name those you meet.

Announce on Sunday that during the week you expect to call on people living on certain streets. *on some plan*

Mrs C. was ^{leuccheon} ~~accutely~~ agreed with others
 in the home of a friend. Shortly after
 lunch had been served & the ladies
 were in the mood of conversation
 & gossip, a pastor - Presbyterian -
 called. He seated himself in
 the circle & remained the rest
 of the afternoon, sporting what
 otherwise would have been an
 enjoyable occasion.

207.5
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8.

As an illustration of the value in your work of the personal touch, let me relate a couple of incidents coming under my observation recently.

Dr. Helm, the pastor of the great First Methodist Church, has been successful because of the power and influence of the personal touch. I was invited to speak to a group of about two hundred men at his Church. Dr. Helm took his dinner at home and during the dinner hour spent his time going from man to man as they were seated at the table. He would gently place his hand upon the shoulder and have a little personal chat. This of course, cemented the relation of the individual not only to Dr. Helm, but to the Church.

General Summerall, who was the Commander of the famous First Division during the World War and now at the head of the United States Army, at a banquet given to the members of the 1st Division at the Alexandria Hotel, came down from the speaker's stand and went among the boys who were seated with their wives and spoke to each of them. He went from table to table, shaking hands with all of them and had some pleasant word. I could understand when I saw this why the boys loved him so. One of them said if he was to order every man to leave this room one by one and go out with the prospect of being shot down, not one man would falter.

Let me be a little practical and tell you to pay your bills promptly. Do not have your reputation discredited by the merchants of the town because of your failure to pay your bills. Merchants will hardly refuse you credit, but do not abuse that confidence.

Build up a reserve if possible, so that you may have a balance in the Bank, which you will find most helpful in an emergency. This may demand an adjustment of your expenses to your income. This often is a bitter experience for a pastor and his wife, who are already scraping the bottom of the barrel.

The wife of a pastor in Illinois told me that when they were first married and he went to his first pastorate it was on a salary of \$500.00 a year, but even on this meagre salary they began to save. The result of this frugality

and system was the widow seeking safe investments for her savings.

✓ I have known ministers who by leaving a community made local merchants happy. They were glad to charge off the amount owing them, as a contribution to the Church and be freed from further annoyance. Don't presume that because you are a minister you may take liberties with business men.

✓ Don't borrow of your members. There may arise an emergency when you must have financial aid and you are obliged to borrow, but let that be a dire emergency only. Then at least make an honest effort to pay as soon as you can. This may not always be easy to do when you have to wait upon indifferent church supporters for your income.

hazardous from I knew a pastor who was an habitual borrower. Many of the members of his congregation and others had been approached by him for a loan and many had made them to their sorrow.

Have stated hours for callers. Then you must have hours for study. Be systematic in the use of your time. Do not permit anyone to monopolize all of it. Have a tactful way of excusing yourself in emergencies of this kind.

Don't be lazy. A preacher has no more right to loaf on his job than any other man. As a pastor is largely the master of his own time he sometimes gets careless.

Use gentlemanly conduct in your contact with women. Be on your guard, yet so tactful that your attitude will not be noticed. Many pastors have compromised themselves by their conduct with women and some have been compromised by women.

It is generally wise to have your wife accompany you on calls in the homes of your parishioners. She can be both a safe-guard and a real social helper. Remember that a slip whereby your conduct may be questioned and your character besmirched will greatly minimize your influence and will follow you wherever you go.

Henry Ward Beecher.

Make it a definite part of your work to call upon newcomers to your city, or if in a large city, to your neighborhood. Have a system whereby you will be informed when new families move into your town. Be prompt about calling, for in this way you can give them a welcome to your community and will often secure additions to your Church.

Go in good form to do all your calling. Have your clothing well brushed, your face cleanly shaven, your shoes polished and have the bearing of a gentleman.

If you were in commercial business you would not be slow to look up prospects. I remember a woman in our Fullerton Church who joined the Methodist Church in Pomona, as she said, simply because the pastor of that Church was the first to call upon her after moving into that city.

If you find that your new found friends are members of another communion, tell them of the fine church you have in your city of their denomination and have something good to say about the pastor of that church, and urge them to unite with it. Then write a note to the pastor, telling him that you had called and found the family of his people, giving their name and street number.

Never be jealous of the success of another Church, or the growing popularity of another pastor in your city. Rather rejoice, as I am sure the Master would, if people were being brought to accept and follow Him.

Be often seen on the streets of your city, always however, on a mission.

Dr. Blaisdell.

As you go on the street, speak to people you meet. Pass no one indifferently. Most people will know you, so you take no chance of being forward or discourteous in speaking to any man you may meet.

Drop into stores and offices just for a greeting or have some word you want to pass on. You can always think

of something you want to learn, or about which you want to get a little counsel. Just some little excuse for calling. Do not remain long on such occasions. In fact, be exceedingly careful about making long calls. Take your leave even while conversation is interesting and your host would be pleased to have you remain. Far more harm is done by remaining too long than by leaving too soon. Many pastors get into the habit of remaining so long when they call that their very appearance is dreaded. You never know what engagements one may have or what work to be done and to be interfered with irritates and often makes one provoked.

These are busy times and you can rest assured that your people have tasks of some kind on hand and dislike to be compelled to visit with one who seemingly has time to kill.

Be hospitable, but do not be imposed upon when you can avoid it. The pastor has many calls from strangers and he must not take at face value everything these people tell him about themselves.

Be cautious and courteous, but do not permit yourself to be continually duped.

You must be sympathetic and write letters to those in sorrow. You can always say a word that will help at such a time and bring a ray of sunshine and, incidentally strengthen the bands of friendship and love for the church.

Write to interested young people, especially if they have gone from home, perhaps to College. An occasional letter may help to steady them and in moments of temptation, strengthen them. This is a good way to tie them closer both to you and the Church.

Have neat letter heads, giving residence number and possibly, your telephone number, but no great poster display.

I urge you to be sympathetic. People just naturally expect more sympathy from a preacher than from anyone else. This is a high compliment. If you are much with the Master, your heart will grow like His and we know how sympathetic He was. Not only do those on the sick bed need your smile

and encouragement, but those in business have their troubles and they too, need your sympathy and encouragement. Often a man seems tossed upon a rough sea, darkness and hopelessness settling down about him and strength and courage failing him. A word from you will be a stimulant to him and will often dispel the gloom, give him courage and enable him to get a-hold of himself.

I admire and love the Christian minister who is a good pastor. The average minister makes a larger contribution to the life and well being of the community in which he lives than any other man. I admire his fine spirit of loyalty and devotion to Christ, his Church and his high calling. He dresses better, entertains more, attends a larger number of social functions, has his heart more bitterly torn by sympathy for sorrowing neighbors and friends, as well as by the immoralities of those they loves, and gives relatively more to all sorts of charities and to the Church, than any other person. This too, all apart from the life-giving message he proclaims.

A PASTOR
Dr. John G. Holland

He knows but Jesus Christ, the crucified,
Ah, little reck's the worldling of the worth
Of such a man as this upon the earth!
Who gives himself - his all - to make men wise
In doctrines which his life exemplifies.

The years pass on, and a great multitude
Still find in him a character whose light
Shines round him like a candle in the night;
And recognize a presence so benign,
That to the goddess even it seems divine.

He bears his people's love within his heart,
And envies no man, whatsoe'er his part.
His church's record grows, and grows again,
With names of saintly women-folks and men.
And many a worldling, many a wayward youth,
He counts among the trophies of his truth.

O! happy man! There is no man like thee,
Worn out in service of humanity.
And dead at last, 'mid universal tears,
Thy name a fragrance in the speaker's breath,
And thy divine example life in death.