Shepherd My Sheep

John 21:16

Getting Started

What happens if a broken bone is not properly set?

Digging In

1. **Read John 21:15-17**. In this touching passage, Jesus is lovingly confronting Peter and reinstating him as an apostle. What three commands does Jesus give Peter in these verses?

2. What do you think is involved in the second command to *Take care of my sheep* (*shepherd my sheep*)?

3. What responsibility is given to the elders in **1 Peter 5:1-3**?

4. In **Acts 20:17-35**, Paul gives his farewell address to the elders of the church in Ephesus. Why does Paul claim to be *innocent of the blood of all men* (**vss. 26-27**)?

5. What instructions does Paul give to the Ephesian elders in **vss. 28-31**?

6. Read **Gal 6:1**. What is our responsibility when a fellow-believer is *caught in a sin*?

7. According to that same verse, what attitude should we have when lovingly confronting another believer?

8. What additional insight can we gain from the first part of **Eph 4:15**?

9. Look up the word *admonish*. Write a definition here.

10. How does **Col 3:16** show that maintaining the health of the church body is the responsibility of every member?

11. Why should we not despise the Lord's discipline? (**Prov 3:11-12**)

12. What purposes for God's discipline are given in **Heb 12:10-11**?

Getting Personal

- What are the key insights you've gained regarding the nature and purpose of church discipline?

- How have you personally experienced God's loving discipline?

- Do you find it easy to *speak the truth in love*? Explain.

- In what ways is it countercultural to *speak the truth in love*?

- Give at least 4 reasons why it is important for God's people to learn to *speak the truth in love*.