

Major task of pastoring is feeding the flock of God. Has powerful impact on health/strength/destiny of people.

## I. THE PRIORITY OF FEEDING

- A. Scripture shows powerful man of God/Elisha: What's he doing? Feeding the people! *priority of ministry*
1. Bible records mealtime: Not minor importance – important significance *Priority of ministry*
  2. Pastors are shepherds: Priority of shepherding is feeding the flock *Feed/fed in Scrip often same word as shepherd*
    - a. Feeding determines the health of the sheep
  3. Food is a symbol of the word of God: Speaking about our preaching & teaching of the word
    - a. How you heal people
    - b. Aim them
    - c. Protect them from error
    - d. Equip them for life
- B. If true: shows the absolute priority feeding the flock must be in our lives/ministries
1. **Mat 14:16** Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." Ministry lesson This is your task
  2. Peter: Concerned w/image/ego/position: Jesus 3x *feed my sheep/feed my lambs* **1 Pet 5:2** *Feed the flock of God...*
  3. Preaching is a skill we should be developing in
    - a. **1 Tim 4:13-15** *Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you. Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress.*

## II. DEATH IN THE POT

- A. Important lesson here: Can't feed people just anything!
1. Our people's health/ability is determined by what they are eating
  2. Warning: what we feed them can cause sickness/death **V40** *there is death in the pot!*
    - a. Someone didn't take time/care in feeding: *Any old thing will do!*
  3. Death in the pot comes in 2 forms:
    - a. Feeding something actually harmful
    - b. Not allowing the people to eat **V40** *they could not eat thereof*
- B. **The peril of the untested V39** *knew them not/didn't know what the effect would be*
1. Often comes from seeking the easy way **V39** *and he found a wild vine...*
    - a. No great labor/preparation – just throw it in/serve it up
  2. Possibility of feeding something harmful: Internet/books/CDs from people we don't know
    - a. Sounds good – they have a church of 10,000; It must be good!
      1. But actually feeding something harmful/weakening – false doctrine!
  3. Or something not bad – it's just not yours
    - a. Preaching other people's material; You found it – you didn't personally didn't work for it:
      1. Not right for the people yet
      2. Not what they need now
      3. Not what God is saying
    - b. Miss the miracle of "*A word fitly spoken*" exactly what people needed – helped/delivered!
- C. **The peril of the imbalanced**
1. Very common to preach our favorite/comfortable themes: *No need to stretch ourselves in new areas*
    - a. Can put a sermon together faster from familiar themes/scriptures – less work!
  2. Health is related to a balanced diet *Scurvy: Lack of Vitamin C*
    - a. Commitment/submission/tithing
    - b. **Jeremiah 1:10** *See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.*

## III. FEEDING THAT HEALS

- A. The answer to death in the pot is meal: **V41** *But he said, Then bring meal. And he cast it into the pot; and he said, Pour out for the people, that they may eat. And there was no harm in the pot.*
1. Obtain good provisions for the people & give it to them;
    - a. Meal = flour: *Something prepared!*
  2. Cure for sickness is good preaching/teaching
    - a. Giving people what they need – something prepared – some effort went into – his own
  3. No sickness of soul/character defect can't be helped/healed by good/wise preaching/teaching
    - a. **Titus 1:12-13** *One of their own men, a prophet from Crete, has said about them, "The people of Crete are all liars; they are cruel animals and lazy gluttons." This is true. So rebuke them as sternly as necessary to make them strong in the faith.*
- B. When we do what we should – it releases something supernatural no harm – instead a miracle!
1. A grace/anointing that impacts people – causes them to make good decisions
    - a. Preaching is a supernatural activity/supernatural dimension
  2. People impacted beyond our words or abilities