

7.3.B(60). **Shepherd Struck.** Mark  
14:26-31.

As with any parent, *generational shepherds* are familiar with the growth process of disciples, as they grow from newly born spiritual children to adulthood, where they begin to mature and care for others. As a generational shepherd, then, it is important for you to know how *the spiritual growth of disciples* differs in a marked way from human biological development.

In physical human development, people mature from being helpless and dependent to becoming independent and autonomous. The spiritual development of disciples resembles this, as disciples grow into spiritual parents who are able to shepherd younger disciples, households, and even generations of households and their shepherds! However, whereas children learn to

sustain their own life by feeding themselves, the life of the disciples is markedly different.

For, this physical world is designed to be human-scaled, appropriate for sustaining this biological life and putting things in our grasp and control. In this way, the family of man has mastered this *earthly world*, as the Lord God had already promised (Genesis 1:27-30).

But, we also know that having been *born again* by the Spirit (John 1:12-13), disciples also live in the spiritual reality of the Kingdom House of God, having a heavenly life, a hidden life, in them. But, the spiritual reality is far different than this visible world of matter. Earth is a world within reach, but the Heavenly Reality is beyond our reach. Even as *reborn children of God*, we cannot do even the smallest thing in the realm of the Spirit. For, in the heavenly scale of the spiritual realm, even a thousand years is as nothing in the vastness and eternal stretches of the infinite realm. So, in the

flesh, we are still and always ever dependent on the Lord Jesus for life, for protection, for guidance.

So, as the *shepherd* of your household, teach your people that through all your generations, Jesus Mashiach remains forever our Lord, the Firstborn Son of our House, and the only Life-giving Redeemer. To *leave him* and seek independence is only unbelief and death.

Read Mark 14:26-31.

<sup>27</sup> And Jesus said to them, “You will **all fall away**, for it is written, ‘I will **strike the shepherd**, and the **sheep** will be **scattered**.’ <sup>28</sup> But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.” 14:27-28

## Background:

### Jesus Mashiach, our Eternal Shepherd:

As the *generational shepherd*, you are given an authority from the Lord God to instruct your people in the Kingdom and Life.

To know life is to know the source of life, our life-giving Shepherd. For Jesus Mashiach says:

<sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and **destroy**. I came that they may have **life** and have it **abundantly**. <sup>11</sup> I am the **good shepherd**. The good shepherd **lays down** his **life** for the **sheep**. John 10:10

When Jesus Mashiach calls himself our “good shepherd,” he reveals to us the *covenantal bond* the Lord has with us, the people of his House. As

our shepherd, the Lord God has given him the authority to protect his house and redeem their lives. So, Jesus Mashiach alone is the shepherd to give us the “abundant life” from God (John 10:10). As the writer of Hebrews says:

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great **shepherd** of the sheep, by the blood of the **eternal covenant**.

Hebrews 13:20.

Jesus Mashiach, the “great shepherd” of his family flock, has been perfected as God’s Heir to be the “Lord” of all in heaven and on earth. Our Lord and Shepherd has all power to use for the good of his own House and people. So, if our Lord is truly “great,” then to receive his blessing and life, which

he freely and sacrificially lays down for us, it is no hardship to view ourselves as his “sheep.”

For, Jesus Mashiach, our Lord and our “great shepherd,” is our shepherd forever and ever, because his blood seals us in an *eternal covenant* of life and protection. We are his sheep because we are of his family forever.

### **Case Study: Flawed Family, Faulty Individuals**

There is a deep-seated rebellion in our *flesh* that resists the idea of being a part of any group, any family, forever. In this rebellion, *true freedom is to be* isolated and alone, unencumbered by any relational obligation and free to express one’s choice.

But, such a perversion of *freedom* is only the product of this current age’s *industrial and Western bent*. In all other ages of humanity, to be banished from one’s family and people was certain death. For, to be truly free from any relationship is to be vulnerable, outcast, exiled in the world. Such exiles will die horribly alone.

But, in this current age, Western individualism has so infected relationships that families are often merely transactional and temporary—raising individuals who eventually are freed from the encumbrance and interference of family. To be free but alone, forgotten, and abandoned.

But, the Kingdom of God shifts the frame of life for its people. Life is not found apart from but only under the sheltering House and the protective watch of its Head and Shepherd, the Lord Jesus Mashiach. Individuality is defined not in terms of personal loneliness but in a growing responsibility, as Adult Disciples learn to care for their own households.

However, the future of sons within the Household is not exile, not abandonment, but a changing honor showed from son to father, from parents to children. In this way, the maturing disciple does not become *independent* of his Lord. Yes, his choices become more weighty, but he never chooses in isolation but under the

Lordship of his forever shepherd. And, this Shepherd always nurtures, guides, and protects his flock, but as a king protecting his nobles, as a Lord sharing in the fellowship of his knights but also ensuring that each thrives in his land and inheritance!

### Shepherding the Generations: Your Changing Relationships

So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: <sup>2</sup> shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight,<sup>[a]</sup> not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you;<sup>[b]</sup> not for shameful gain, but eagerly; <sup>3</sup> not domineering over those in

your charge, but being examples to the flock. <sup>4</sup> And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. 1 Peter 5:1-4

### **Shepherding the Flock as a Generational Elder:**

As a *generational shepherd* of the Lord's flock in the last days, you will be called to do what no one else has done—to raise up Kingdom disciples who fully mature to establish the *throne of Jesus Mashiach* as disciples and households are multiplied throughout the Earth and in Jerusalem! The Lord will accompany your work, as the world has never seen—with the nation of Israel offering prayers to him in his Temple, 144,000 of your number going out to the nations, and the two *mashiachs* testifying to the world with signs and wonders. And, you will bring the Kingdom to earth

in 3.5 years, succeeding where the church failed after two thousand years!

So, it is important, right from the start, that you raise up Kingdom disciples who are *thrive and bear fruit* not just on earth but spiritual fruit, heavenly, and eternal. To see the Kingdom come in this way, you will need not just to be *sacrificial*, but to *total in your sacrifice, laying down your life* as the Lord Jesus, as our Good Shepherd, laid down his whole life for his people.

So, consider this overview as a *starting point*, for we have seen glimpses of such Kingdom fruit in our time on earth. But, may you see all the Kingdom in all its fullness, as you and your *generations of shepherds* whom you will raise up give yourselves fully to the Lord Jesus as a Holy Offering, acceptable to God, as your due service of worship! (Romans 12:1-2).

May our eternal shepherd anoint you for this great work!

| Elder                  | Teach, Encourage, Comfort    |                                          |                                          | Mentor, Equip, Train,                                        |                                                     | Strengthen, Partner                           |                                                      |
|------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Shepherd               | New Life                     | Walk/<br>Devotion to<br>Lord             | Family<br>Life:<br>Love, Word,<br>Faith  | Shepherding<br>Instruct Heart<br>build Faith,<br>Bless House | Sacrificial<br>Servant<br>Leading<br>Leaving w/Lord | Team:<br>Shepherd-<br>ing a House             | Teams of<br>Shepherds<br>Clusters of<br>Houses       |
| Overseer               | Signs of<br>New Life         | Devoted<br>Relation.                     | Brother-<br>hood:<br>Family<br>Relations | Partner<br>Shepherd<br>Restore<br>Worshippers                | Team of<br>Shepherds:<br>Sacrificial<br>Shepherd    | Shepherd<br>Team over<br>House:<br>Guidance   | Shepherd<br>Teams over<br>Clusters of<br>Households  |
| Example                | Thrive:<br>Faith &<br>Repent | Bond:<br>Obey Word<br>Know God's<br>Will | Connect:<br>Share Word                   | Represent:<br>Shepherd                                       | Sacrificial<br>Service<br>Kingdom Life              | Shepherd<br>Houshold<br>Managing<br>Household | Shepherd<br>Generations<br>Sacrificial<br>Life-giver |
| Phase                  | Childhood                    |                                          |                                          | Adulthood                                                    |                                                     | Parent                                        |                                                      |
| Stage of<br>Develpmnt. | 1. Newborn<br>Disciples      | 2. Infant<br>Disciples                   | 3. Child<br>Disciples                    | 4. Teen (young<br>adult) Disciples                           | 5. Adult<br>Disciples                               | 6. Parent<br>Disciples                        | 7. Elder<br>Disciples                                |

If the Lord Jesus raises you up and appoints you to serve in his Kingdom House as a generational shepherd, you will be called to shepherd many generations of households with their family members, a considerable task when even shepherding a single line of households. The table above maps out how the various roles in the Chief Shepherd's Kingdom House fit together and, specifically, how you as a *generational shepherd* will need to work with disciples in the household of all the various stages of growth.

## **Shepherding Disciples in their Childhood:**

### **Elders Teach Childhood Disciples by Encouraging and Comforting:**

As the *parental disciple in a Household or Cluster, Clan, or even Region of Households*, your main responsibility will be to “feed” your household with knowledge and understanding (Jeremiah 3:15). The Lord God likens this teaching to *feeding* People with “knowledge and understanding.” Clearly, the wise *generational shepherd* feeds his household what is appropriate for their developmental needs and abilities.

### **Teach as Elders:**

So, as a *generational shepherd*, first learn to teach the youngest food with the simplest, most easily digestible of foods, what is “encouraging and comforting.” Remember your time as parents of young children. These little one’s mainly needed

to be held, encouraged, and fed what could be easily experienced and acted upon.

Shepherd Children with Gentle Guidance:

**Lesson #1:** Life and Death: to experience New Life to see the Kingdom of God, new disciples must reject the *flesh life* and cling by *faith* to Jesus Mashiach as their only Life-Giver.

If you look at the Lord's condemnation of the *last church*, which he eventually rejected, you will see the *bad fruit* of not producing disciples who were spiritually viable. And, the reason these *bad fruit* were eventually reject is for two reasons: first, their repentance was not of the "flesh" itself nor of a desire to have a "new life" by rejecting *dead sin*, but it was a mere admission of sin. So, they were like terminal patients who *admit* that they are sick but refuse to be cured, preferring to live in their own sickness. Secondly, since these *fleshly* believers refused to repent of their fleshly *Self-Rule*, they had no need of Jesus Mashiach as their

Lord and Savior. So, they drew near to their doctrines, their worship festivities, and their religious riches but shut Jesus out of his own church (Revelation 3:20).

So, it is imperative that you *help each newborn disciple* (Stage 1) experience the *freedom* and the refreshing of *repenting of their fleshly* Self-rebellion. And, to draw near to the Lord Jesus for life itself.

As an *Elder Shepherd*, much of your work may be spent in overseeing the households and shepherds under your care, and you may have little opportunity to *teach* these youngest of disciples. In my experience, I often took personal responsibility to teach those young disciples who looked to be most fruitful.

**Case Study: Teaching Newborn Disciples as a *generational shepherd*.**

In all of his ministry relationships, Paul is not recorded *raising up* many disciples, but we do

know that he invested his time in teaching and then mentoring Timothy. Paul saw something in Timothy, so you may choose proteges wisely as those who could eventually replace you!

**Case #1: Allison.** Child-like integrity. Allison turned to Jesus when she had nothing, with a broken spine, an addiction, and a broken mind. So the Lord restored her to life and gave her the Holy Spirit. For two and a half years, Allison was stuck as a Stage 1 disciple, still not willing to repent of her addictions. But, at her lowest points, she was quick to see her error and sheepishly return to her Lord. At every stage, she overcame growth obstacles and is now learning to *shepherd* younger disciples (Stage 4). I've always seen Allison as a *spiritual daughter*, so will instruct Allison and give her whatever she needs.

**Case #2: Justin.** Zeal. Coming from a blue-collar background, from a South Asian/ Caribbean background, Justin embraced the Lord and was

immediately zealous for his name. So, he very quickly was on the streets, sharing Jesus with strangers. It was clear that Justin was more of a preacher than a teacher, more comfortable sharing the Good News of Jesus but not so comfortable studying the Word to teach it. So, after laying the foundation of Mashiach in Justin (Stage 1), I connected him with other mentors.

**Case #3: Richard.** Whole-hearted. Like Allison, Richard came to us with a broken mind. When the Lord healed him and saved him by his mighty Word, Richard forsook all other voices—abandoning Social Media, Entertainment, and even the Internet. Like Allison, Richard shared Jesus with others and saw much fruit in his life, even starting to “shepherd” and mentor his peers like Justin. He is a Stage 4 disciple who is still learning to *sacrifice* to the Lord his own Self-interests and Self-Righteousness, realizing that he has become a bit legalistic, laying down his own religious rules of conduct. Richard sought

out alternate teachers when the Lord's call became too threatening. He is a good example of how Stage 4 shepherds who bear fruit often become side-tracked in Stage 5 when they are called to focus on the interests of God, sacrificing their own Self-interests. If they do not, they begin to build *fleshly kingdoms* rather than the Kingdom of God on earth.

**Case #4: Yuichi.** Simplicity. Even though Yuichi was a *doctoral student* in Linguistics (from Japan), he approached Jesus with a child-like simplicity. Coming to Jesus, he knew he was to *love Him* as his first love. Throughout his life, Yuichi never departed from this simple love and devotion. Not finding any churches when he returned to Japan, Yuichi started a *house-church*.

**Case #5: Nic. Faithfulness.** Nic had come to Jesus after he had lost everything. Coming to us from another church, we made sure to *lay the good foundation* of repentance from the Fleshly Life and *faith* in Jesus Mashiach as Lord. In

everything Nic did, he embodied a deep faithfulness. He studied Mark with us to grow as a disciple, then took the word and brought it to those imprisoned and started to grow as a *shepherd* (Stage 6), eventually leading his family to Jesus. And, it is his sister, Romina, who led Allison to Jesus!

To my great *regret*, Nic felt the call to relocate his new family to the *hinterlands* of Canada, where he began to serve in another church.

In each of these cases, my goal as an *instructor* was to be very *encouraging* to them. As one who had seen and/or experienced most of the obstacles and breakthroughs they passed through, it was tempting to turn the focus on myself and my time-frame for their growth. But, their walk with the Lord was a gift which no one can take from them, so they had to experience, to fail, to be stalled, and to achieve their own breakthroughs. Through it all, my job was to

encourage them in the right way and to comfort them when they fell. As they passed through their childhood or even chose to linger at any one stage, my job as to teach, to *shepherd them—that is, guide* them in the way forward, and to “oversee”—to watch their progress. So, as they passed from simply experiencing New Life to then learning to draw near to the Lord Himself, to bond with them and then to connect with other disciples in the body, I was always watching for the “signs” accompanying their growth. And, I learned this:

Lesson #2: The spiritual growth of disciples will be stalled at every stage where they are unwilling to give up fleshly obstacles to progress by faith to mature.

So, if *newborn* disciples are unwilling to fully repent of the *flesh*, instead clinging to the world or some *fleshly bondage* or refusing to let go of some Self-centered part of their lives, they will remain at

*stage 1* indefinitely. Thus, likely the vast majority of disciples are *spiritually* stalled at stage 1, even if in the world's eyes they progress to even lead. But, their growth will be *worldly* rather than *Kingdom* growth. Let me illustrate:

Nic, whom I mentioned above, grew spiritually until he became a *generational shepherd*. The fruit of this growth was seen in his “generational” fruit—he led both his mother and sister to Jesus, and his sister Romina led Allison to Jesus. Allison, in turn, is sharing the Gospel with her family and loved ones, and will soon help someone be reborn as a disciple: 4 generations of fruit proves that Nic's growth is not fleshly but spiritual, for all of these he disciples are bearing *spiritual fruit* and not relying on *fleshly works*.

Contrast that with a leader who was accustomed to *fleshly Self-ambition* as his norm. He walked according to his group's doctrines as his practical Lord, and even became the shepherd of a

church. However, with his Self-ambition unchecked, this person's shepherding never bore the fruit of *Self-sacrifice* and so was limited by worldly limitations. He preached, but was unable to reproduce Spirit-led disciples but only book-reading followers of human coalitions. So, no reports of new life came from those in his household but a mere parroting of human doctrines. No marriages were restored. No one in bondage was freed.

So, *generational shepherd*, help your people make progress by identifying the *fleshly obstacles* to their growth. And, gently shepherd them through these obstacles—sometimes instructing, sometimes comforting after discipline, sometimes walking with them to experience victory.

Though a *new disciple* “repented” of his marijuana addiction, he was never able to be freed of his addiction and struggled for years at Stage 1. Finally, he agreed to *listen* to the Word of God

(not being a reader). And, we read the Word together every morning for a month. He finally experienced freedom from his addiction!

For Allison, the big obstacle for growth was to move from isolation into connectedness as a Stage 3 disciple. Praying with her, praying against *satanic temptations*, and fortifying her with the Word, Allison finally discovered the joy and necessity of fellowship in relationship.

But, shepherding them *gently* knowing that they must make their own mistakes and enjoy their own victories is necessary. For, as Paul knew, Timothy would with Jesus one day start and oversee his own households!

## Good Shepherds: Laying down your life for your sheep.

<sup>24</sup> Now I rejoice in **my sufferings for your sake**, and in my flesh I am **filling up** what is **lacking in Christ's afflictions** for the **sake of his body**, that is, the church.... <sup>27</sup> To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is **Christ in you**, the **hope of glory**. Colossians 1:24,27

The *only way that Jesus passes on “abundant life”* to his people is by “laying down his life” for the sheep (John 10:10-11). This act of *laying down his life*, this Kingdom dynamic of sacrifice-driving-growth and giving life, does not stop with His Redemptive Ransom on the Cross. For, Paul says,

“I am filling up what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions for the sake of his body” (Colossians 1:24). In other words, Jesus Mashiach identifies with his Body, his House on Earth. For the sake of the house, sacrifice, afflictions, and loss are still required for his people to grow. For, it is with these “sacrifices” that the Father is well pleased, for they prove the “fear of God.” (Genesis 22). So, Paul, and his company of fellow Parental Shepherds, are still required to suffer and sacrifice for the people of God that they may grow.

As a *generational shepherd*, you must abandon any sense of *Self-entitlement* in this life. For, sacrifice and loss can come at any time, even to those things that you would claim as most precious. At any time. Anything that is yours. So, in this section, we see our example of *Generational Shepherding*, our Lord, lose everything of value to himself. For, the crowds were indeed right—if he is to “save others,” he

cannot at the same time seek to “save himself.” Those are mutually exclusive possibilities.

Imagine parents who refuse to feed their newborns or change them, claiming that they have a “right” to their own comfort. The definition of parenthood is sacrifice, and the mark of Kingdom Parenthood is *ultimate sacrifice* for its *eternal fruit*.

### Case Study: Ruining the Flock

In my experience, nothing has been more ruinous to the flock than *selfish shepherds*, who put their own self-interests and ambitions above the Kingdom. This selfishness ruins the body in small and big ways, and it makes it impossible for any shared Kingdom labor, for the plow will be split between this world and the Father’s heavenly purpose. So, as a *generational shepherd*, be sure to train the *shepherds of your household* to be willing to *lay down their lives* for

the sheep. If they are unwilling to do that, perhaps God's anointed is not Saul but David, so find a man after God's own heart. For, when one "fears God" properly, they will "turn away from evil"—especially the vile corruption of Self-Love.

**Case #1:** The history of the Western world, which has largely defined the Church movement, is marked by a *deep-seated* humanism which produces an ingrained sense of *Self-entitlement*—each person is entitled to their own *freedom of will, protection of property, and independence* from the demands of people, kings, or even God himself. Such an ingrained *Self-importance* produces a keen self of self-interest that defiles even pastoral behavior.

This particular church service was led by the Worship Pastor, who led the church in beautiful song of *grace and gospel living*. He called on the people to give of themselves to honor God.

*That day*, a young couple came with their infant son, who was just starting to babble. I encouraged them to read to him from a *children's Bible* we once passed out to our new parents. Scrambling, I searched through the church for any copies we might give out.

*There were two remaining children's Bibles on the Worship pastor's shelf.* When asked if we could give one to the congregant, he replied "No, one of the Bibles is mine and the other belongs to my daughter," who would not be reading it as a teenager. Perhaps this man had good reasons to keep these Bibles—he hoped his daughter would read it to his future grandchildren, or he'd hope to give it to someone in the future. Regardless of the reason, this *pastor* made the choice to prefer his own interests over the needs of "the sheep." This was a small setback, but telling in how Self-interest in the pastors of a church blocks Kingdom growth, which is driven by sacrifice.

**Case #2:** Selfish Pastors- Selfish Movements: Multiply this *pastoral self-interest* millions of times across generations, and you see a Church shaped by *fleshly Self-interest* from the least of its pastors to the largest of its denominations. Such Self-interest chokes the Kingdom. For, when Kingdom-minded servants advance the Kingdom, their work will always be opposed by those *fleshly, Self-interested* shepherds who have seized power for themselves and who outnumber and outvote these kingdom servants.

## **Shepherding Discples in their Adulthood.**

In the Kingdom path to discipleship maturity, adulthood is defined by the ability and willingness to *embrace one's calling* to take responsibility for younger disciples. There is no alternate path to maturity. So, for those who insist on being selfish, who hold on to their isolation and independence,

and who refuse to care for anyone but themselves, there is no further growth. For this reason, the Church Age was characterized by disciples who never bore any spiritual fruit beyond *their personal lives*-- perhaps the fruit of repentance, or the fruit of the Spirit. Some may even have seen fruit in their own areas of service in the church. But, in the eyes of the Kingdom, to refuse to take responsibility for anyone but yourself prevents you from maturing as a disciple. But, for those who are willing to take the step into maturity, hearing the *call* of God on their lives to shepherd the lost or younger disciples, these do not need *teaching* as much as they need you to “mentor” them. While you must be selective in the *young disciples* you choose to teach, you must be even **more selective** in those whom you choose to mentor. For, to *mentor* a disciple into maturity requires a mutually committed relationship. Paul says:

<sup>2</sup> and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to **faithful men**, who will be **able to teach** others also. 2 Timothy 2:2

Disciples who mature into full adulthood must be mentored in a mutually *trusting relationship*, and that is called “mentoring.” Those whom you should consider to mentor are proven to be:

- **Faithful:** At this point, disciples should have had opportunities presented to them to serve the Lord. Have these *disciples* shown themselves to be “faithful,” especially to do what the Lord asked of them with humility and diligence? In this way, those whose hearts are still gripped by *fleshly Self-ambition* will prove *unfaithful*, for they will reach the *limits* of what is pleasant, or comfortable, or self-rewarding for them. Instead, faithfulness requires faith—

to trust the Lord Jesus enough to do what he says without any worldly reward, recognition, or return—all of which the flesh demands.

- **Teachable/ Able to Teach:** And, maturing disciples are able to teach the Word of God. This ability is not mere memory or *inert knowledge*. Rather, the Word of God has powerfully transformed their own lives, for their lives demonstrate the *authority* of God's word as they obey it. And, to teach means that they themselves are teachable. They have heard the Lord open his words to them. They have heard and receive the Word of God from others in the body to build them up, to instruct, warn, correct, and train them. This humble receiving of the Word and its works by faith all show that someone is able to Teach—passing on what they have received.

Most importantly, prayerfully *choose* those to mentor. Remember Jesus prayed and then named the Twelve whom he would mentor. Jesus chose men who would one day **take his place** after he departed.

### Equipping and Training Shepherds:

Mentoring *disciples into adulthood* can't be done by *programs* or *anonymously*. The *flesh* falsely assumes that passing on knowledge is sufficient to raise up competent shepherds, because knowledge can be commodified and mass-produced to maximize profitability. Instead, disciples maturing into “shepherds” to care for others can only be *mentored* into maturity because they need to be *instructed and learn to instruct at the “heart” level*.

As disciples pass through the stages of childhood in their discipleship, much of what they develop is personal and private. Even as they

connect with other disciples to encourage and be encouraged, much of the growth is either hidden or kept public, interpersonally. But, Shepherds learn to let God's Word go deep to *free, to convict, and to cleanse* at the deep level of the heart. And, only those in deep relationships can really be transparent and accountable at this level to see the Word take root.

For example, disciples will learn to spot the outward signs of *heart hardness*, an outward hypocrisy and insistence on *fleshly rules and regulations*. But, these outward appearances of religious piety belie a deeper hardness to God. So, if you are *mentoring* shepherds, be sure to ask questions which will expose their motives. Which uncover any hidden *hardness of Self-ambition* or Self-interest. Rebuke their selfishness or refusal to share or give of themselves.

Also, remember that discipleship *growth* makes one increasingly dependent on the *Lordship of*

*Jesus Mashiach*, not less. So, be sure that these disciples are always free from the *hardening unbelief* which leavened and defiled the teachings of the Pharisees. For, unbelief starts with the simple act of *standing self-sufficiently*—standing on one’s own understanding, or name, or abilities. So, seek to *shepherd the hearts* of your maturing disciples.

At the same time, you are called to “equip and train” these in the skills of shepherding. That is, you are not merely “teaching”—passing on knowledge to them. To “equip” a *shepherd* is to observe them as they apply, act on, and adapt the tools that you are giving them. And, when they succeed, “train” them to keep using their *shepherding skills* with consistent effectiveness.

Now, helping your disciples take the final step into (Stage 5) sacrificial service sometimes requires very honest confrontation. For, not only are your *shepherds* experiencing some measure of

affirmation and success as shepherds, but the threat of assuming that their *Will = God's Will* is especially dangerous. For, the *flesh* will emerge not in base and obvious temptations to indulge in immorality or murderous rage. But, it will secretly entice the shepherd to fall back into his old *self-protecting, Self-justifying* ways. But, as Jesus rebuked Simon Peter when he blocked his way to the cross (Mark 8:33), pointing out that to fall to *fleshly self-protection* was to align with Satan's worldly agenda, so, you must guard your shepherds from falling to fleshly ambition. The excuse, "I'm watching out for my Self!" is not valid for *servants of the Lord called to abandon their rights and guarantees of safety to "deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow" the Lord Jesus (Mark 8:34).*

Here, there is no room for *nicety* or *compromise*. For, the smallest surrender to the *fleshly path* will undo Kingdom progress. Imagine

if Jesus had listened to Simon's well-meaning words and actually did refuse the cross because "it would be not good for you." Of course the cross did Jesus no good! For, to take the path of Kingdom Sacrifice *is to abandon any entitlement* to good in this life. For, to scrape for even the least comfort is to abandon the Kingdom to Satan's undoing. So, if Jesus agreed with Peter's quite reasonable request to look out for himself, he would not go to the cross. One simple compromise would doom all the generations to eternal ruin and hell.

**Case Study: Rebuking Self-Entitled shepherding.**

One of the leaders was *mentoring* a young man for baptism. This leader was proven in his service to the Lord and his Kingdom, having served as the head elder of our church and spearheaded many campaigns to bring the Gospel to our neighbors. But, this man also was tempted to *fall back* to his fleshly ways and its

entitlements. For, as a successful owner of a small business, he had both wealth and influence in the world.

So, when the young man he was mentoring wrote a *testimony* that was entirely Self-honoring, attributing his progress, his growth, even his act of baptism to his own choices, I informed the young man that a testimony testifies of the work of Jesus Mashiach to save, redeem, and give new birth. Honoring Jesus as Lord and Savior was needed. However, the leader defended his mentee and his testimony, calling me to protest any demand for changes.

I openly resisted his arguments, pointing out that he of all people should know that a testimony not even mentioning Jesus as Lord and Savior could not be considered a valid testimony . Making the obvious known to him, and expecting him to know what was glaringly true, was done in love.

Years later, this leader reported to me that this young man, now working as a firefighter, had publicly taken a stand for his faith in the Lord Jesus and that stand was a witness to the entire area! Mentoring means that you protect your mentors from their own fleshly interests!

## **Shepherding Parental Disciples:** **strengthening partners.**

You may be noticing that as disciples *mature*, your relationship with them becomes more *equal* as you see and treat them not as helpless children but as your very own peers, your partners.

Suffice to say, we leave it up to you and your Lord Jesus Mashiach to determine your way to raise up Parental Disciples at the (sixth and seventh stages). For, the partnering you will share, the households you will build, and the generations you raise up to reproduce and fill the earth—all this the world has not seen yet!

I have a foreshadow of what this might look like. However, like Moses gazing from a distance at the Promised Land, the Kingdom is yours to hold of.

Simply remember that regardless, at this point, of who emerges among your ranks as productive and fruitful, who survives as the Eldest among Elders, at the very end of the day, “You have one Instructor, the Mashiach, and you are all brothers!” Press on.

Focus:**6.3.B. Hurt and Loss: Shepherd Struck:**

Mashiach Struck and Sheep scattered. Mark 14:26-31.

1. **Shepherd Struck:** Injured for the sake of the Household, Sheep Scattered. 14:26-28
2. **Sheep Stray:** Without shepherd, sheep will have no power to protect themselves. 14:29-30.
3. **Fleshly Confidence:** Apart from the shepherd, the sheep have no strength in their flesh. 14:31.

Consider:

Question:

Further Discovery: