

# Toward A Shepherd's Heart

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*Detailed Outline*

*Part 2 of 2*

## **II. Paul's Model (Acts 20:17-38)**

### **A. He was humble (v. 19a).**

1. Paul had every earthly right to be arrogant or have a sense of entitlement, from a human point of view. He was, after all, a great apostle, wildly “successful” in ministry.
2. But, he reminded the Ephesian elders that while he was with them worked with his own hands, a very humble profession (34). He was a tentmaker by trade.
3. Also, Paul in his ministry at Ephesus submitted himself to the indignity of opposition, the Jews plotting against him (19b).
4. He could have said, “*I don't deserve this.*” He could have left Ephesus, but he submitted to that treatment because he cared for the ones who believed. Often caring for others means you get treated poorly.

### **B. He was hardworking, diligent and generous (vv. 33-35).**

1. A lack of these qualities renders our efforts to care for others as shallow, surface, perfunctory.
2. Sometimes caring for others means rolling up your sleeves, grabbing a shovel, hammer, wrench, or broom. Paul shared his stuff with others
3. People tend to accept your spiritual interest and counsel when they see you sharing your stuff with them.

### **C. He was relational (see his tears vv. 19b, 31, 37).**

1. He felt for them, he was empathetic. This possibly refers to the suffering.
2. There was much love between them all (v. 37)
3. Empathy means you make an emotional connection.
4. It is OK to be scholarly, administrative or a “type A” personality—but people won't be changed by the truth if they don't know that you truly care for them.
5. Empathy is capacity to feel for other people in their experiences. To vicariously feel what they are feel.

### **D. He was need-oriented (v.20a).**

1. Paul determined what was needed and profitable and he didn't avoid any teaching that was necessary for their good. Paul was issue-oriented.
2. He taught doctrine, but always with a purpose.

3. Shepherding at its core is helping people live the life of Christ.
4. Whatever the problem, the solution is related back somehow to what took place on the cross (see 1 Cor. 1:17, 23, 2:22).

**E. He was flexible (v. 20b).**

1. Some pastoral care takes place in large groups.
2. But you can only know what is going on in peoples live by spending time with them.
3. A shepherd-elder needs to be able to meet others when they are available: visiting, having coffee, one-minute pastoring events on Sunday morning, five-minute pastoring after bible study meetings, etc.

**F. He focused on teaching (v. 21). Two Things We Teach:**

1. Repentance toward God, Turning from Wrong Ways
  - a) Common shepherding needs: Anxiety, fear, wisdom, interpersonal conflict, internal conflict, pain, uncertainty, grief.
  - b) In Christ is all...
    - 1) Wisdom, and that counters ignorance
    - 2) Love which casts out fear,
    - 3) Hope which mitigates anxiety - he holds tomorrow, he is the peace maker.
  - c) Yes, sometimes people need specialized counseling. But, even then they need pastoral/elder counsel on strengthening their spiritual life.
2. Faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ – The Key to All Life’s Problems
  - 1) Trusting Christ as we go through problems
  - 2) Trusting Christ to lead us through problems
  - 3) He preached the whole purpose of God and how it relates to Christ

*Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures. (Luke 24:27 NASB95)*

*Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him. (Acts 8:35)*

**G. He was prayerful (v. 36).**

**III. Shepherding is Not Primarily Exercising the Gift of Mercies.**

- A. Shepherding is watching over the spiritual well-being of the people.
- B. Being aware of things that weigh people down, oppress them, take their joy away, that unsettles their peace.
- C. Shepherding means to care for people’s spiritual well-being--that affects every area of life.

Counseling and problem solving can take place. But if their spirit is not resting in Christ, any help will be at best temporary and superficial.