

A few cross references were touched on during the sermon:

John 18:36. Jesus before Pilate. "My Kingdom is not of this world..."

Acts 15:22-29 (The Jerusalem Council. Context is the friction between Judaistic Christianity vs. the New Covenant in Christ. Read the whole chapter for that context. Notice in vs. 22 f. how the Apostles, Elders and ALL the people of God sought for the mind of the Lord. There was a sense of consensus, not autocratic rule by a few. "It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and us..." (vs. 28). This speaks of the willingness and ability of ALL God's people, with the right spirit and attitude, to "hear" what God is saying. I assume it wasn't a "perfect" thing, since we are all limited, and must admit that we "miss" on many occasions. This is another affirmation of how full of grace the Lord is, and that He works with even the decisions that we don't "get it right" in.

2 Corinthians 11:28. Paul's summarizing statement, after listing so many horrible experiences he endured, tells us that he "carries the concern for the churches in his heart...daily).

1 Timothy 3:1 f. EPISKOPOS is the Greek for "overseer". Sometimes translated as "Bishop".

Matthew 20: 20f. In this world Rulers "lord it over and exercise authority over..." NOT SO AMONG YOU. Servanthood is your mark.

John 21:15-19. Jesus challenges Peter with the question: "Do you love me"? He tells him to "feed and take care of MY sheep". (this clearly parallels 1 Peter 5:4—Jesus is the CHIEF SHEPHERD)

Ephesian's 4:11,12. Leaders (Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor, Teacher) are GIFTS to the Church. God's people are called to recognize who they are, and accept that God has placed them in their midst because He knows they have something to give to the people. Leaders also grow and benefit from knowing and loving and serving in the midst of the congregation, as well. This understanding needs to be present in all.

Acts 20:28. Paul is meeting the Ephesian Elders in Melitus. He is on his way to die. He warns them and admonishes them over many areas that are important for leaders to know and watch for. He reminds them (an us because we have this record of that important meeting) that God "purchased the church with His own blood". I think this is to underscore the fact that they are "God's people", NOT any Leaders'.