

1. Needed: A Few Good Men—Exodus 18:13-26 (Tell the story of Jethro visiting with Moses and witnessing Moses alone trying to shepherd all of Israel—literally thousands of people. Instinctively Jethro knew this was a bad model—warned Moses of burnout and recommended another course of action—**Read vs. 18-21**. As we fast forward to right here, right now at Levy, Jethro’s advice is just as true and impactful. We still need some good men to share the blessed task of shepherding and leadership. I am with our current shepherds weekly and to a man they echo this—they feel personally the need for additional capable men to share the joys and burdens of leading this flock.)
2. Leadership for the 21st Century—Acts 20:28; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:3-9; 1 Peter 5:1-4 (Even though our context has changed drastically since the day of Jethro and Moses and even from the NT days of these biblical references—God’s call for and dependence upon good, capable men to shepherd his flock has not changed. He puts an extremely high value on all who do and I pray that here at Levy we do have more of these capable men willing to join the long legacy of healthy shepherding that has served this church so well. To further encourage this, I call up one of our newest shepherds—Jon Mark Hopper. He and I have had several discussions about his journey to the eldership. Perhaps hearing it from him will spur others to follow.
3. (Jon Mark Hopper –three questions)
 - a. **Why did you choose to become a shepherd and join the eldership?**
 - b. **Tell us what it is like now to be a shepherd; to work with the other guys; and about that Sunday afternoon meeting almost every week?**
 - c. **Why are you—along with the other elders—needing more men to join you in shepherding God’s flock at Levy?**
4. (No need to whitewash it—leadership is not easy. Look no further than the Exodus story and what Moses had to endure. But there is also not way to understate how so very vital it is! Maybe the best way to illustrate it is to jump forward to another time in Israel—maybe a couple of generations removed from Moses and Jethro—after Moses successor, Joshua, had died. Let’s hear what the scripture says about that situation) Judges 2:10 (What they had there was an epic failure of leadership; a failure of capable men to step up and shepherd; to sacrifice and lead; to understand to vast significance of healthy and sound shepherding. With all of my heart I pray that this will never be repeated. Guys—we need you. We are praying for you to see the need; to set your goals; to live your life; to prioritize God’s call—and get ready to serve God as Levy shepherds. Just like in Moses’s day—we need you.)