



# Daily Reflections

**May 7, 2017**

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## Scripture

### **John 10: 1-10**

Jesus said:

"Amen, amen, I say to you,  
whoever does not enter a sheepfold through the gate  
but climbs over elsewhere is a thief and a robber.  
But whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.  
The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice,  
as the shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.  
When he has driven out all his own,  
he walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow him,  
because they recognize his voice.  
But they will not follow a stranger;  
they will run away from him,  
because they do not recognize the voice of strangers."  
Although Jesus used this figure of speech,  
the Pharisees did not realize what he was trying to tell them.  
So Jesus said again, "Amen, amen, I say to you,  
I am the gate for the sheep.  
All who came before me are thieves and robbers,  
but the sheep did not listen to them.

I am the gate.  
Whoever enters through me will be saved,  
and will come in and go out and find pasture.  
A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy;  
I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly."

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

Today's Gospel text contains a scathing indictment by Jesus of the religious leaders of the day. He said they are like thieves and robbers who are not trusted by the sheep. They sought personal gain without regard for the care of the sheep. Jesus described Himself as the Good Shepherd who came to guide, direct and protect the sheep. Unlike the bad shepherds who worked for pay and who ran when the wolf attacked, Jesus took no pay and laid down His life for His sheep.

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## **Food for your Journey**

In his book *Making Room for Life* (2003), Randy Frazee recounts how a successful Christian businessman made a profound impact on his life. He writes:

I grew up in an unchurched home. When I became a Christian in 1974 at the age of 14, I had to make arrangements to get to church and back home by myself. The church was about a 20-minute drive from my house. If I wanted to come back for Sunday evening worship, which I always did, it made the most sense to stay at the church all afternoon or to go home with a family that lived near the church. There was one particularly gracious Italian family that invited me to their house almost every Sunday for a great meal — usually pasta and salad. The father was a successful independent grocer who had many tales of buying and selling produce that captured my attention.

At dinnertime we would all gather around the table, and he would "say grace." This was a new experience for me. This successful man would bow his head and humbly thank God for providing the food we were about to eat. I had never heard of such a thing. It seemed to me that he had worked very hard to get to where he was and that he should take all the credit. However, he humbled himself in the presence of his family and declared his gratitude to God. There were times when everyone else's head was bowed and eyes were

closed, and I'd look up and stare at him. I desperately wanted to grow up and be like him. I wanted to raise a family and demonstrate God's love and protection on our family, just as this father did.

Well, I've been married to his beautiful daughter now for over 20 years, and I see it as a great honor each night to say grace to God on behalf of my family of six.

—Randy Frazee, *Making Room for Life* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2003), 134.

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Jesus, Guide and direct me in Your wonderful way. Protect me, Lord, from sin and evil. Amen.