



Daily Reflections

May 8, 2017

Scripture

John 10: 11-18

Jesus said:

"I am the good shepherd.

A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

A hired man, who is not a shepherd

and whose sheep are not his own,

sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away,

and the wolf catches and scatters them.

This is because he works for pay and has no concern for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd,

and I know mine and mine know me,

just as the Father knows me and I know the Father;

and I will lay down my life for the sheep.

I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold.

These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice,

and there will be one flock, one shepherd.

This is why the Father loves me,

because I lay down my life in order to take it up again.

No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own.

I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again.

This command I have received from my Father."

Our Scripture Reflection

In today's Gospel text, Jesus illustrates what makes a shepherd "good": A True and total investment in the sheep. A hired hand upon seeing danger flees the flock because they are simply clock punching money makers. The True and Good Shepherd invested His life in His sheep. He protected the sheep from danger to the point of laying down His life for them. He provided an example for all pastors if not for all Christians.

Food for your Journey

In what may be an apocryphal story, novelist Anatole France, when shown the collection of discarded crutches and canes in the shrine at Lourdes, turned to his guide and asked, "No wooden legs?"

Spiritual inverters just don't get it. Here is a mountain of crutches and canes that people no longer use or need. And we wonder where the wooden legs are?

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, You gave everything for me. Help me to show my gratitude by giving myself for the good of others, especially the least in Your Kingdom. Amen.