



Daily Reflections

May 9, 2017

Scripture

John 10: 11-30

The feast of the Dedication was taking place in Jerusalem.

It was winter.

And Jesus walked about in the temple area on the Portico of Solomon.

So the Jews gathered around him and said to him,

"How long are you going to keep us in suspense?

If you are the Christ, tell us plainly."

Jesus answered them, "I told you and you do not believe.

The works I do in my Father's name testify to me.

But you do not believe, because you are not among my sheep.

My sheep hear my voice;

I know them, and they follow me.

I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish.

No one can take them out of my hand.

My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all,
and no one can take them out of the Father's hand.

The Father and I are one."

Our Scripture Reflection

Why was it so difficult for the religious leaders to hear the voice of the Good Shepherd? Their egos got in the way. They knew it all or so they thought. And that's the problem for would-be believers today. They can't hear the voice of the Good Shepherd because the voices of science and technology have convinced them that they are their own shepherds, self-contained monads. But, if they can only humble themselves they will realize that while science and technology can help us in our quest for knowledge, they cannot fulfill our deepest longing. We need a Good and True Shepherd.

Food for your Journey

A priest was teaching a Sunday school class about the 23rd Psalm. He told the children about sheep, that they weren't very smart and needed lots of guidance, and that a shepherd's job was to stay close to the sheep, protect them from wild animals and keep them from wandering off and doing dumb things that would get them hurt or killed.

He pointed to the little children in the room and said that they were the sheep and needed lots of guidance. Then the priest put his hands out to the side, palms up in a dramatic gesture, and with raised eyebrows said to the children, "If you are the sheep then who is the shepherd?"

There was an awkward silence.

Then Jennie, a young second-grader, said, "Jesus: Jesus is the shepherd."

The young priest, obviously caught by surprise, said to her, "Well, then, who am I?"

Jennie thought for a moment, and then said with a shrug, "I guess you must be the sheep dog."

—Patrick T. Gray, theadvent.org/sermons/pg050706.htm. Retrieved October 17, 2006.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, In a world where so many voices compete for my attention, help me to seek You and to listen to Your voice above all others. Amen.