



Daily Reflections

April 22, 2018

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

The religious "shepherds" of Jesus' day, the scribes and Pharisees, were more concerned about their outward appearance and authority over the people. Time and time again, Jesus takes them to task and calls them hypocrites. Their behavior towards the people was more like that of actors on a stage. They were not concerned about the welfare of people and Jesus knew it. He offers Himself as the true and Good Shepherd. Unlike the hypocrites, He will lay down His life for His sheep.

Food for your Journey

There is profound theology in the words of the little girl who began to recite the 23rd Psalm "The Lord is my shepherd, that's all I want."

The shepherd is responsible for the sheep; not the sheep for the shepherd. The worst of it is, that we sometimes think we are both the shepherd and the sheep, and that we have to both guide and follow. Happy are we when we realize that he is responsible, that he goes before and goodness and mercy shall follow.

--Streams in the Desert

"If we trust Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, we have no reason to fear that truth from any source will undercut our faith. Indeed, we have every reason to believe that all truth, wisdom and reality cohere in him."

--John Cobb,

"Being a Transformationist in a Pluralist World,"

Christian Century, 10-17

August 1994, 749.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, You are the only True and Good Shepherd. You love us and showed us the depth of Your love by giving Your life for Your people. Whenever I am lonely, afraid or confused by what I experience in this life,

help me to know that You are near to keep me safe. Thank You, Lord, for loving me, a sinner, as You do. Amen