



Daily Reflections

May 13, 2019

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 he 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,
they 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."

Our Scripture Reflection

To have an abundant life does not mean to have a life in which one's material needs are met with overflowing satisfaction. It means to have a life whereby I am intimately connected to my Lord Who created me, redeemed me and with Whom I hope to spend the life that never ends. Such a life is grounded in Divine love and that Peace that this world can never give. The abundant life is a gift from God.

Food for your Journey

The abundant life is not about being happy. Google "how to be happy" and you'll get more than 800,000 hits. You'll find suggestions about how to be happy in life, how to be happy with yourself, how to be happy single, how to be happy at work, how to be happy all the time. Consult C.S. Lewis' God in the Dock and his chapter, "We Have No Right to Happiness," in which he warns us that the good news of the gospel is more than a promise that we'll be happy. In fact, no such promise is made, and the continual pursuit of happiness as an ultimate goal in life will result in an unnatural affection for something that will eventually sweep us away. He gets into his discussion by describing a conversation he had had with some friends. "Clare" had said that, "after all, they have a right to happiness." Lewis continues: "I went away thinking about the concept of a 'right to happiness.' At first this sounds to me as odd as a right to good luck. For I believe — whatever one school of moralists may say — that we depend for a very great deal of our happiness or misery on circumstances outside all human control. A right to happiness doesn't, for me, make much more sense than a right to be six feet tall, or to have a millionaire for your father or to get good weather whenever you want to have a picnic."

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear God, Your Son is the Good Shepherd Who knows me and loves me so much that He freely gave His life for me. May I seek His guidance and protection at every turn. Amen