Are You Listening to Your Good Shepherd?

Reflection by Fr. Paul Portland, SDS



One of my favorite ways of reflecting on Jesus is as the Good Shepherd. Psalm 23 begins:

"The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want…."

In the 10th chapter of John's Gospel, Jesus is presented as a gatekeeper who says,

"Whoever enters through me will be saved."

As a gatekeeper, the shepherd keeps dangers away. The shepherd leads his flock. The shepherd looks for the lost sheep and brings them back to the fold. A good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep.

Jesus laid down His life for us on Calvary. Jesus has led us by showing us how to live and how to relate to others to bring happiness, peace, and joy to ourselves and those around us. There is one condition, though:

"…my sheep listen to my voice."

Our part is to listen to what Jesus says to us, listen in the sense of "obey," not simply "hearing." Like the Prodigal Father, our Shepherd's waiting for us to come to Him and LISTEN. Then, He can lead us in right paths, for His name's sake.

I invite us to reflect on how well we are doing at LISTENING to the voice of the Good Shepherd. That means quieting down, sharing with Jesus, and then listening so He can talk to us. Ideally, we should set aside a few minutes each day to do that, giving our Good Shepherd the opportunity to lead us. Then, we are really "listening to His voice" and allowing Him to "lead us to green pastures."

We pray:
Dear Jesus, thank you for being my Good Shepherd. Help me to listen to your voice and follow you. Always. Amen.

Peace,
Fr. Paul
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