

Covenant Life

- Our next Gathering will be next Sunday, May 7th at 3pm. While we normally meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays, we are moving our first meeting in May to the first Sunday to allow more time with our mothers on May 14th.
- Click our [Jubilee web page](#) to enjoy the content and respond to the Holy Spirit.
- If you were unable to attend our last prayer meeting, you can listen to the audio [here](#), read the Word Gift summary [here](#), and the transcript [here](#).
- Your ongoing financial support to the Community is sincerely appreciated. Please donate online [here](#) or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, Tx 75222.

I have always been impressed by the story of the shepherd and the sheep who know his voice and follow him. Contemplating a vast mingling of sheep and envisioning them naturally separating after they hear his voice is amazing. I did an internet search and watched a video of it happen.

This had the intended consequence of self-reflection on whether I hear God's voice and whether I follow Him. It was a healthy reflection as I pondered the ways that I could further my relationship and allow more time and quality opportunities to hear Him. As a Covey fan, I am cognizant of understanding both importance and urgency. The issue is my natural tendency to err on the side of the urgent and neglect the utter importance of wasting time with our Lord to draw close and be able to always distinguish His voice. The [Gospel](#) today goes on to promise us that Jesus walks ahead of us, leading and guiding us if we but recognize His voice and follow Him.

A couple years ago I attended two talks given by Patrick Reis, who is a cofounder of Encounter Ministries that promotes active evangelization. These talks (still available online on the NAN website [here](#)) not only provided teaching regarding listening to the Holy Spirit within but also exhorted responding by actually sharing the words in practice sessions. As charismatics we are confident that the Holy Spirit is speaking to us and through us if we will but listen and respond. I was a little surprised to see how many people raised their hands at the end of the session indicating that they were blessed by the words that were prophetically

shared with them. It was intended to build confidence that we can all recognize His voice and to propel us all to exercise prophetic gifts.

The last verse of the Gospel today reminds us that Jesus "came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly." His promise is abundant life and that is not only assurance for us but a call for us to be a voice to others. Let each of us recommit to drawing close to our Lord so that we recognize His voice and take advantage of opportunities to share the spiritual gifts with boldness based upon confidence in recognizing Him speaking through us.

The [Second Reading](#) today reminds us that Jesus was the suffering servant and that we too will face our share of suffering. This is the reality for all Christians as we embrace the cross of Christ. Personally, I was overjoyed that the words regarding the realities of suffering were preceded by the [Responsorial Psalm](#) David's powerful words of our Lord as Shepherd. This psalm is likely a favorite of yours as well and we can pray it day-in-and-day-out. It captures so well the great love the Lord has for us and our ability to completely let go and trust in Him.

While the readings today cover a diverse list of topics my exhortation to us as a Community is to draw nearer to the person of Jesus. Everything in our lives as individuals and as a Community centers on Him. He is our all-in-all. The closer we are to Him the better able we will be to hear and recognize His voice and respond to His great commission to make disciples of all nations. When our response comes from His direction, our actions conform to His perfect will and build His kingdom. This is the essence of our covenant, uniting together to unite with Him, to be a people that He can use for His purpose.

Let us pray, *"Jesus, You are the Good Shepherd, You are my shepherd, I surrender my whole life and being to You. Reveal Yourself to me as I draw close to You. Speak to me so that I can easily recognize Your voice. I promise to be true to You and follow Your guidance and direction. Thank You for calling me into a covenant with You and my sisters and brothers. Lead us as Your people and show us today how we can conform our wills to Yours and cooperate with what You are about. We say Yes!"*

God Bless,
David