

Covenant Life

- Our next prayer meeting will be a week from today, Sunday July 28th at 3pm. We plan to have Children's ministry and a Formation I teaching.
- GodsDelight.org has prayer meeting [audio](#), [summaries](#), [transcripts](#), and [teachings](#).
- 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.

Reflection

With so many references to shepherds and sheep in today's readings, I wondered if this was a second Good Shepherd Sunday... There are important lessons to ponder in the reading today.

The first one I offer is the warning in the [First Reading](#). Jeremiah warns shepherds who scatter His flock. Since we know that all scripture is inspired and worthy of instruction, I encourage each of us to take this word to prayer. It is clearly a word to all who serve in leadership, that have a particular charge to lead as selfless servants and ensure that everything we do and say points to Our Father. But expanding the scope just a little, we are aware that everyone one of us, regardless of our formal responsibilities, [leads by our example](#). In roles in the family, workplace, or even the grocery store we can heed this warning. How might our actions, our daily words and deeds, potentially mislead and scatter His flock? Maybe we can spend some time today with a short examination of conscience and ask our Lord to show us any ways that we might be contributing to the scattering of His sheep.

Secondly, I offer the principle that Jesus offers in the [Alleluia](#) verse today "*My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me.*" There are several very good questions to ponder in this short verse. Do we hear Jesus' voice in our daily lives? Does our experience of Him build our confidence that He knows us? Do we follow Him daily? Any of these reflections might prompt us to take some action to become closer to our Lord and Savior, Our Good Shepherd.

Regardless of the result of any of these reflections, the most important point our Lord might offer today is that no matter how far we have strayed, no matter how many we might have led others astray, no matter how many opportunities that we might have passed on to be the sheep of the Good Shepherd, He is and will always be, our Good Shepherd searching us out and welcoming us back.

The [Responsorial Psalm](#) today is so powerful; I include it here for us to read and reread today and claim every verse:

The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I lack. In green pastures he makes me lie down; to still waters he leads me; he restores my soul. He guides me along right paths for the sake of his name. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff comfort me. You set a table before me in front of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Indeed, goodness and mercy will pursue me all the days of my life; I will dwell in the house of the LORD for endless days.

This is our prayer for today. With the Lord as our Shepherd, we lack nothing. When we are tired, He restores our soul. He is always guiding us regardless of the dark valleys we traverse. At His side there is nothing to fear. He is our protector and provider. In Him we experience His great love and mercy. Where else might we go? We pledge our whole lives to be in His house, sitting at His feet, under His providence and protection until He calls us home.

Let us pray, "Jesus my Lord and savior, You truly are the Good Shepherd, my Good Shepherd! I pledge to spend time with You every day listening to Your voice and doing my very best to follow You. I express my confidence in Your love, providence, and protection for me. I seek to love and serve You all the days of my life and to love those You have called me into relationship with. Be my Good Shepherd today and send me Your Holy Spirit to empower my ability to walk whatever road You call me to take. I love You. Amen"

God Bless,
David