

Sisters and Brothers, may we recognize the voice of our Shepherd!
4/25/2021

Covenant Life

- Our next in-person Prayer Meeting is planned for Sunday, May 2nd at 4pm in the MSM gym.
- Please allow the Holy Spirit to prepare our hearts for a special outpouring this Pentecost (Sunday May 23rd at 4pm in the MSM gym) by participating in our **Let the Fire Fall Challenge**. Details are [here](#). Phone a friend, discuss with your accountability person, and bring the activities into your family and small group discussions. As Bobbie's teaching reminded us that God is at work drawing us to Him and to one another. God is asking us to let go of the many distractions in our lives and focus on His voice, the voice of our Good Shepherd. He is asking us to actively listen to Him throughout our day and respond to the 'divine encounters' that await. The everyday witness of our lives lived loving Him and loving one another is the reason He called us to be His People. Let us be His Delight and draw those we encounter every day closer to the Good Shepherd.
- The Holy Spirit spoke a very powerful word to us at our last two Gatherings and I encourage you to spend time studying the word and allowing it to minister to our souls: The audio recording is located [here](#), the summaries are [here](#), and the transcripts are [here](#).
- Your ongoing financial support is sincerely appreciated. Please donate online [here](#) or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, Tx 75222.

Reflection - Today is Good Shepherd Sunday and we have all heard the teachings about the degree to which we need to recognize our Shepherd's voice and follow Him. I recall this being the key point behind the exhortations to a daily prayer life. I can testify that in my own life this has proved out. I recall my experiencing living in men's household and how we started off with no TV in the house to cut down distractions. We prayed the Divine Office, we had personal and communal prayers each day...all attempting to tune out the distractions of our world and tune into the voice of the Good Shepherd. There is no question that the distractions of our internet age have escalated and become all the louder. That is why our Let the Fire Fall challenge this week and the reading

today emphasize the criticality of tuning out the world and tuning into our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Bobbie's teaching exhorted us to appropriate and exercise the power of the Holy Spirit. If we do not release it...nothing happens. This is why He called us to be His Delight. He needs our witness. The example of our lives submitted to Him as our Good Shepherd. Bobbie reminded us how much fruit can come from our lives if we die to ourselves and let our seed bring forth His bounty.

But we have to let go and let God. We have to surrender our ideas, ignore the clamor of the world, and not see ourselves from the perspective of our culture. I think this was the reason Peter quoted Psalm 118 in the first reading from Acts today. *"The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone."* This is an all-important lesson. If we value what the world values, we will not be the witnesses that God is calling us to be. We must have the courage to be rejected by the world's builders, just as Jesus was, if we are to accomplish God's will for us, as individuals and as a Community.

In order to prepare for His outpouring at Pentecost, let us each recommit to letting go of the distractions in our lives and centering on the voice of our Shepherd and actively listening to Him throughout our day. Ask God to setup a divine encounter for us today and be ready to share our faith.

Let us pray *"Jesus, my Good Shepherd, I am sorry for the times I have forsaken You, prioritized other things ahead of my time with You. It is my ardent desire to begin my day in Your presence, to listen to Your voice, to read and meditate on Your word. I want to be transformed into sheep that recognize Your voice and call and are always available for the daily divine encounters. My life is Yours, I want to share my faith with those You bring into my life. Give me the courage and strength to always witness You. I love You Lord, my Good Shepherd. Amen."*

God bless,
David



A wood carving that I brought back from a trip to Bangalore India - a favorite image of the Good Shepherd 😊