

Notes:

Sermon Text

Subject

Spiritual "To Do List"
(things God has shown me today)



Enter to Worship. Depart to Serve.



Painting - "The Good Shepherd"
Bernard Plockhorst

Many of the followers of Christ are a good deal like sheep. Some follow near, and therefore enjoy the intimate fellowship that such close following brings; while others wander off into worldly enticements, where the perils are greatest and strength to resist least. Even the greatest of Christian leaders sometimes follow afar off. Peter was following Christ "afar off" when he strayed into the courtyard of the High Priest's palace on the night of Jesus' betrayal and arrest. He warmed himself by the enemy's fire, and ended with a thricefold betrayal of the Master whom he really loved.

The churches today are full of so-called Christians who follow Jesus, if at all, "afar off." And because they do not follow the Master closely in loving service, they drift into all sorts of by-paths and temptations, only to discover, in the time of great need or heartache, that they have forsaken the One whose companionship would mean most to them in time of peril and disaster, for the "hireling" who escapes when troubles come.

Notice the mother sheep of the little lamb that "The Good Shepherd" is carrying in His arm. She may not be able to see, as we can, the thorn in his leg; but she knows he has been hurt, and follows close to the shepherd, watching with a mother's anxious care the face of her little one.

The face of "The Good Shepherd," as with downcast eyes He fondles close to Him this injured lamb, is beautiful indeed. The tenderness of a mother is in the enfolding embrace in which He carries to safety even "the least of these."

—Cynthia Pearl Maus, *Christ and the Fine Arts*, 1935



O God, who, by the humility of Thy Son, didst lift up a fallen world, grant unending happiness to Thy faithful: that those whom Thou hast snatched from the perils of endless death, Thou mayest cause to rejoice in everlasting days. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son.
Book of Common Prayer



I am the good shepherd:

the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

John 10:11

