

GOOD SHEPHERD 2021

“Think of the love that the father has lavished on us”

You are each shepherds of your family's

Some of you of your communities

All of you, of our society

The loving presence of people of faith is a necessary constant in a world that chases after the new, in the hope of running away from past disappointment.

The good shepherd calls you

To be content

To be constant

To be prepared for sacrifice

The love that the Father has for me is not the reward for past actions of merit. He does not love me because of what I should be, but because of what I am. Now , here at this moment.

If I am to be of faith. I must learn to accept and adopt such love.

To love myself, not as a reward for my personal achievements. Not for what I want to be, but because of what I am, NOW, here, at this moment.

To love others, not as a reward for their achievements. Not for what in my arrogance I believe they should be, but for what they are, NOW, here at this moment.

The constant love of the Father for me is not subject to certain conditions. As a child that love fed me, as an adolescent that love frustrated me, as the old man I am now that love challenges me.

If I am to be of faith, I must learn to accept such consistent love

To constantly and personally return to the roots of what I know to be true. To seek in Christ the reason and justification of my life.

To be honest in my commitment to others. Not directed by a personal understanding of reality, but guided constantly by what the shepherd calls me to.

The sacrifice that Christ Jesus made for me was not a vindication of my importance. The infinite insignificance of my personal value in comparison to the divine, demonstrates the infinite generosity of Gods love.

If I am to be of faith, I must learn to accept my insignificance, and celebrate what has been done for me with consequent humility.

To be prepared to model such sacrifice in my relationship with others. With honesty recognising what I can do, and leaving to the infinite love of God what I cannot.

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The good Shepherd calls you

To be content

To be constant

To be prepared for sacrifice

To recognise that you are the sheep and not the shepherd of the whole flock

But to imitate the shepherd as best you can

Thus to live within the love of God.