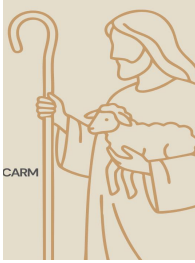


# The Shepherd of the Flock: Shepherding in the Scripture

## A Lord's Flock Worship Service Topic

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As a shepherd tends the sheep, so God shepherds His flock in four specific ways (Jn. 10): by **Anointing**, **Trimming**, **Disciplining**, and **Calling**. If the Lord is truly our Shepherd, and we follow His voice, goodness and love will follow us (Ps. 23).



### 1. If we are ANOINTED, we are protected.

- 1.1. Anointing oil was used to protect the sheep from pestering insects. When the presence of God is upon us, His protection is with us and nothing can disturb or harm us.
- 1.2. Anointing requires our faithfulness to God. Thus, if one walks the path of unfaithfulness, the protection is lifted. King Saul was anointed three times. Yet, he became arrogant and disobedient, and the spirit of the Lord was withdrawn, and he became unstable (1 Sam. 9-31). Similarly, if we feel disturbed, God's protection is not with us anymore. We must pray more and call His name, Yahweh! *"Be here now, Oh God, for you are my security, protection, and deliverance."* Our fortitude come from God's anointing.

### 2. TRIMMING happens when God takes away something, so we do not veer away from Him.

A shepherd needs to shear the sheep's coat to keep from being overgrown. Likewise, the Good Shepherd trims away our excesses, taking away what we love so much as they hinder our faithfulness to Him.

### 3. DISCIPLINING. God will make sure that He will save and protect us from danger.

- 3.1. The Good Shepherd always has the rod and the staff to discipline and protect the sheep (Ps.23:4). The rod is for defense against

predators while the staff – an offensive weapon – is for pulling the sheep from difficult situations. Jesus, our salvation and redemption, will bring us out of our problematic circumstances to be with Him.

- 3.2. He cares not just about our behavior, but also about our interior life. Prayer is the fundamental of faith; without it, we become easily insecure. With internal discipline, we gain trust and confidence in God.

### 4. When we hear God's CALL, we grow in faithfulness, and His purpose will be realized.

The sheep recognizes the voice of their shepherd. *Shema Israel* (fourfold listening in the Scriptures) aims not just to hear the voice, but to seek the source, that is God and heed Him.

- 4.1. When we follow the Lord, we may get tired, but we will not feel weighed down; that is the fruit of God's love.
- 4.2. The Lord has equipped and prepared us for the tasks at hand or situation we are in. If our ears and hearts are attuned to God, trials do not have power over us.
- 4.3. What should we do when we hear the voice of God? We should HEAR, HEED, OBEY, and DO!
  - The Lord brought Fr. Sheldon when he was young to TLF where his spirituality was honed; thus, he received the gift of clarity of vocation. Now, he helps seminarians discern their calling.
  - Married couples of fifty years last not because of their own perseverance, but because of their faithfulness to God.

**Conclusion:** Joy and peace can only come from the grace of the Lord. When we remain faithful to God, our visions become reality. Conversely, when our visions and dreams do not become reality, then we should question our faithfulness to God. If we hear His voice, He will make us new and transform us into an image that we did not even dream of. Let us seek His voice and pray before doing something.

**Reflection:** Do you have a clear vision of Christ for you or is it blurred? Can you keep still for one hour before the Lord to hear His voice?

#### SCRIBES Ministry:

Transcribed by: Jo Advincula

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