

Vocations Sunday Homily

The Rev'd Peter Lewis | Diocesan Vocations Advocate

I'm Peter Lewis and I'm part of the vocations team in the diocese. My role is to encourage people to know that God is with you, leading you and equipping you to grow God's Kingdom in some way, some way that is personal to you.

Let's look again today at the 23rd Psalm. And because the psalm focusses on sheep, we have a reporter (me) to visit some sheep, somewhere in the Valleys.

Well, I've just climbed a hill in the Valleys and I'm turning the camera around. Here I am in the Valleys and there are lambs and sheep in the fields. So, the Lord is my shepherd and if Jesus is my Shepherd then, Who am I?, Who am I in the Psalm? The character of the reader is... a sheep, yes... I'm a sheep, we are sheep... but the character changes before long, because God the Shepherd, prepares a feast. A feast for a sheep? I don't think that sounds right, so the character has changed from being a sheep to something else, what exactly? What character is that reading the Psalm? Let's find out.

Come back to the Psalm and hear a recording by John Jones, who's reading.

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. 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, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

So, the 23rd Psalm and celebrates the fact that God come side by side with us, his follower. But we're not like followers as sheep being led by a shepherd without knowing anything about their future. That would be a bit passive to me, no, we are working together, We are growing in faith, we're develop in our spiritual lives, we're learning. That's why it is better to think of ourselves as disciples.

Can you see this theme of God with us, being develop throughout the psalm... I am led, I am revived, I am protected, I am comforted, I am honoured, I am blessed and I have a purpose in life.

Well, in the bible women, men and children became disciples of Jesus. And I think it is important to think of myself as a disciple of Jesus today because I want to make a difference in the world, through my spiritual life. And God really does ask us, calls us, to have an important part to play in this world as we are led, as disciples.

Stop for a moment and ask yourself the question, when actually am I a disciple in various part of my life?

As I'm walking my dogs, who am I? I'm a disciple.

Any tea here? As I'm volunteering in the community, who am I? I'm a disciple.

As I relax with my friends, even if online, who am I? I'm a disciple.

As I'm training in the gym, or lounge at home... who am I? I'm a disciple.

And as I'm waiting in the car for the boys to come from Football, who am I? I'm a disciple.

As I'm cooking for the family, "Boys!", who am I? I'm a disciple.

With my neighbours, who am I? I'm a disciple.

In my religious life, my spiritual life, who am I? I'm a disciple.

And that is the truth, we are always disciples, or sheep that are being led by the Lord.

The vocations team want to support you to make a difference in our world for God. And I am not thinking of people becoming ordained as priest, although we can help there... we want to give suggestions to people to explore how God calls us today, ways which are personal to them.

Catch us on the diocesan website, facebook, twitter, instagram.

Over the next few weeks, I'm starting monthly meeting to help people to listen to God better so that we can be led to place like 'the good green grass' and 'the quiet waters'. Send an email or look at my videos on the diocesan youtube channels.

Let's pray. Lord, here am I, at your call. Speak Lord, for your servant is listening.

And I pray for God's blessing over you at this moment for you to live a life that makes a difference in God's Kingdom around us.