

May 2, 2023



Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

JOURNEYING THROUGH EASTER

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THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

By Sister Jeanne Fallon, CSJ

Today's Gospel

The feast of the Dedication was taking place in Jerusalem. It was winter. And Jesus walked about in the temple area on the Portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long are you going to keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." Jesus answered them, "I told you and you do not believe. The works I do in my Father's name testify to me. But you do not believe, because you are not among my sheep. My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. No one can take them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one can take them out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one.

JOHN 10:22-30

Reflection

Today's Gospel tells about an event in Jerusalem when Jesus was walking in Solomon's Portico, a covered section of the Temple. It was winter. The Jews gathered around him, not in the warmth of friendship but with the intention of interrogating him concerning his identity. They were impatient, desperate to grasp who he really was, saying *"If you are the Christ..."* They were laying a trap for him. Jesus responded that they had seen his works: he was acting in God's name, but they did not believe. Jesus confronted them plainly, *"you are not among my sheep. My sheep hear my voice."*



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For Pondering

Are there times when I want God to speak plainly to me? As I ponder this Gospel passage, perhaps I could ask myself, how do I **expect** God to speak to me? When Jesus was speaking to the Jews, he mentioned the **works** he had performed among them, like healing, teaching, raising the dead to life. What are the works I see God doing in the world? The wonders of creation, the vastness of the universe, the birth of a child, the power of forgiveness? Could these be ways that God speaks? What are the **works** God is doing in me? Are there times when God's Spirit moves me to reach out with compassion to touch someone in need? Just as sheep recognize the voice of their shepherd, do I recognize the inner movements of the Holy Spirit directing me to follow

Listening to the Voice of the Shepherd

Spend some time in prayer with any one of these passages:

I have called you by name, you are mine.

—ISAIAH 43:1

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he awakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear.

—ISAIAH 50:4-5

Incline your ear and come to me; listen so that you may live.

—ISAIAH 55:3

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