

June 6, 2025

Daily Reflections

Journeying through Easter



Center for Spiritual Development

AS A SHEPHERD TENDS HIS FLOCK

By Elisabeth Beall

An Excerpt from Today's First Reading

Thus says the Lord GOD:

I myself will look after and tend my sheep.

As a shepherd tends his flock

*when he finds himself among his scattered sheep,
so will I tend my sheep.*

*I will rescue them from every place where they were scattered
when it was cloudy and dark.*

*I will lead them out from among the peoples
and gather them from the foreign lands;*

*I will bring them back to their own country
and pasture them upon the mountains of Israel
in the land's ravines and all its inhabited places.*

*In good pastures will I pasture them,
and on the mountain heights of Israel
shall be their grazing ground.*

Reflection

From an early age, my parents helped me understand God as a loving, reassuring force in my life. My mom taught me to see God as a caring and generous parent, and my dad – whenever I tried to weasel out of going to church – would point out that it was important to build a relationship with our Creator. (“When you get ‘up there,’ you don’t want God to say, ‘Who are you?’” he often pointed out, an angle that makes me chuckle now that I’m a parent myself.)

I especially liked the little cardboard sign that hung in the kitchen of the house where I grew up. “For with God, all things are possible.” The bigness of the concept was overwhelming, one I found difficult to internalize. Years ago, my mom gave the little sign to me, and it resides in my cluttered office, slightly the worse for wear -- the concept still overwhelming. But time and again, I have experienced it as true.

That certainly doesn’t mean that God makes smooth every path I choose to tread. And it doesn’t mean that there is no pain or suffering. As my parents age, as the edges of whatever good health they enjoyed fray more and more, I know that although God is their shepherd as well as my own, they will be led into pastures where I can’t immediately follow. This is a line of thought that has come into very sharp focus in recent months, and it’s hard to bear.

So I especially treasure readings like today’s, during this weird and uncomfortable time in my life when the clouds seem to be gathering. For all God’s people will be rescued from the shadows, from every place where it was cloudy and dark. There is a light ahead for all of us; the light of God’s love is all around us – no matter how frightening, sad, or infuriating we find the path we’re currently traveling. Even as we stumble along, our shepherd guides and guards us.



Photo by Elisabeth Beall

For Pondering

- How did you come to understand God as a loving presence in your life? Did you have to change the way you viewed God to come to that understanding?

- When was a difficult time in your life that you felt God's presence? How did that impact the way you navigated that difficult time?
 - What does Mark 10:27 mean to you? "For with God, all things are possible."
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For Prayer

*Love pours out
but the broken cup
cannot receive*

*too pained
too discouraged
too shamed
too brokenhearted
too burned out
too lonely
too disenchanted*

*Love waits to strengthen
Love waits to nourish
Love waits to be received
Love waits to heal*

*in time
the cup will be mended
in time
the cup will be raised
in time
the cup will receive again*

*in time
in time*

JOYCE RUPP

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