

THE GOOD SHEPHERD 2024

The whole notion of the Good Shepherd is prone to romantic exaggeration. This fits into a notion of faith that presents the Gospel without challenge.

That the Lion of the life of Christy is presented as a pussy cat.

Thus we have the Victorian images of the Good Shepherd.

With a handsome, young Christ holding a little lamb in his arms.

This is a great shame because the words of Jesus were chosen

Because the image of the shepherd is a beautiful image of God

It has within it humility, and real dedicated care.

God not as distant power, but as gentle guardian

This is ironically potentially more challenging.

God like the Good Shepherd will always love you.

During your early years as you learned to walk and speak

The love was there

During the rebellious period of teenage as you wore the cloths and combed the hair

The love was there.

As an adult believing that the weight of the world was upon your shoulders

The God that actually bore that weight still loved you

God loves you now

Who then are you to do anything different?

So you must love yourself

To love the child in you who can still be silly

Love the teenager with a particular taste in awful music

Love the adult who has known failure

Love who you are here and now

God loves you

What right have you then, not to love yourself?

God like the good shepherd will always see the good in you
How that goodness found expression in innocent affection as a child
How as a teenager goodness became difficult to identify,
The black and white replaced by the grey of new decisions.
As an adult too busy to bother with goodness. Which now was an automatic reaction to
responsibility

God sees the goodness in you even now
Who then are you to see anything different?
So you must see the goodness in yourself
Look to that child who was, is, you and enjoy the goodness
Realise the goodness of you in that teenager who bore real fruit, confused as it was at the time
Recognise the goodness done in those adult years
Believe in the goodness that is so very much of what you are today
God sees the goodness in you
What right have you then not to see the goodness in yourself?

God like the Good Shepherd will never abandon you
The child grows in a crucified world, the blameless Christ crucified with the innocent
Even when there is this cruel deprivation the loved is never abandoned
The teenager who knows all never abandoned, in the discovery of truth, by the one that in truth
created all.
The adult who believed self, to be in charge, was never abandoned by the one who was in charge
God has not abandoned you here and now
You are precious in the eyes of God.
Who then are you to abandon the vocation God calls you to?
Never abandon the child in you, being so grown up, as to lack joy
Never abandon those teenage ideals, and hopes
Never lose contact with the values you lived when the pressure was on
God will never abandon you
Who are you then to abandon yourself?
There is still much to do

The Good Shepherd

Loves you

See's the good in you

Will never abandon you

Love yourself

Look and see the good in self

Never abandon that goodness

You are wonderful.