

Shepherded In the Flock

Promise: The Lord provides and takes care of us in His Church

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10
(Fourth Sunday of Easter, 5/3/20)

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. — v 42

Lead In – I've noticed at least two different approaches to physical fitness that people take at the Y. The first approach is to employ a personal trainer. The second approach is to join a particular exercise class. Both avenues seem to accomplish the goal of better fitness, But I would argue that the second, that of the class, better reflects how our Lord Jesus brings us to better spiritual fitness as we exercise the faith given us as a gift in our baptisms.

I. Too Much Lone Ranger Christianity Today, Why?

- A. Emphasis on decision like signing a contract...
- B. Too many nutcases in the fellowship...
- C. Love of spontaneity, and eschewing discipline...
- D. Contemporary passivity, entertainment critics...

II. The Whole Image of Shepherding in the Bible

- A. Sheep are not able to employ personal trainers...
- B. Led out to pasture, then protected in sheepfold...
- C. Care in flock does not diminish the personal...

III. Immediately On the Heels of Baptism...

- A. Believers *devoted* themselves to...
- B. There was a shape to their gathering together...

Parting Shot – Now there is a picture of individual attention given one particular sheep, apart from the flock! You would find the example in Matthew 18 and Luke 15. It is the depiction of a lone sheep having wandered away from the flock. This is a lost sheep. It is a sheep in danger of perishing. And what does the Good Shepherd do? He seeks after and finds the lost. And then he picks up the stray sheep, and carries the sheep on his shoulders back to flock to be cared for! ... Devote yourselves therefore to...

Matthew 28:19-20 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

1 Cor 12:13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.

1 Cor 12:21 The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."

1 Cor 14:40 But all things should be done decently and in order. *(the need for orderly worship)*

Acts 2:42-47 ESV

The Fellowship of the Believers

⁴²And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

2 Tim 4:3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions.

1 Cor 12:4-7 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

Rom 12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

John 10:2-4 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.

Jn 10:9 I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.

Psa 23:1-2 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.

Ac 2:41 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

Ac 2:42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Shepherded In the Flock

Promise: The Lord provides and takes care of us in His Church

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10
(Fourth Sunday of Easter, 5/3/20)

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. — v 42

Lead In – I've noticed at least two different approaches to physical fitness that people take at the Y. The first approach is to employ a personal trainer. The second approach is to join a particular exercise class. Both avenues seem to accomplish the goal of better fitness, But I would argue that the second, that of the class, better reflects how our Lord Jesus brings us to better spiritual fitness as we exercise the faith given us as a gift in our baptisms.

I. Too Much Lone Ranger Christianity Today, Why?

- A. Emphasis on decision like signing a contract...
- B. Too many nutcases in the fellowship...
- C. Love of spontaneity, and eschewing discipline...
- D. Contemporary passivity, entertainment critics...

II. The Whole Image of Shepherding in the Bible

- A. Sheep are not able to employ personal trainers...
- B. Led out to pasture, then protected in sheepfold...
- C. Care in flock does not diminish the personal...

III. Immediately On the Heels of Baptism...

- A. Believers *devoted* themselves to...
- B. There was a shape to their gathering together...

Parting Shot – Now there is a picture of individual attention given one particular sheep, apart from the flock! You would find the example in Matthew 18 and Luke 15. It is the depiction of a lone sheep having wandered away from the flock. This is a lost sheep. It is a sheep in danger of perishing. And what does the Good Shepherd do? He seeks after and finds the lost. And then he picks up the stray sheep, and carries the sheep on his shoulders back to flock to be cared for! ... Devote yourselves therefore to...

Matthew 28:19-20 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

1 Cor 12:13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.

1 Cor 12:21 The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."

1 Cor 14:40 But all things should be done decently and in order. *(the need for orderly worship)*

Acts 2:42-47 ESV

The Fellowship of the Believers

⁴²And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

2 Tim 4:3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions.

1 Cor 12:4-7 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

Rom 12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

John 10:2-4 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.

Jn 10:9 I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.

Psa 23:1-2 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.

Ac 2:41 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

Ac 2:42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.