

So many people today are competing for my attention when they voice opinions that they wish to impose upon me. There are people in the media, the government, education, ngo's and even in the church.

They speak of conflicts, socialism, immigration, sexual license, their ideas of fairness, equality, justice, and rights.

They do not speak about God, about Jesus or about eternal life.

I do not wish to follow them or to have them impose their ideas 24/7 365 days a year.

The gospel of the Good Shepherd tell us sheep to follow the voice of the Good Shepherd, and not the voices of shepherds we do not know or who are not teaching Jesus.

Jesus makes us members of the family of God in baptism Jn 3:5. He gives us eternal life if we eat His flesh and drink His blood with the promise of a resurrected body on the last day. Jn 6:52-59. Jesus says that He and the Father will make their home in us if we do His will Jn 14:23.

I am a sheep in the sheepfold of Jesus. I want to hear His voice and to be led out by Him to follow him throughout this life unto eternal life.

Each Christian is called to teach all that Jesus has taught. That mandate is even more pressing upon deacons, priests, and bishops, that we not try to be shepherds apart from Him treating His flock as if it were our own, rather that we teach what He has taught and not go off on tangents about worldly events.

So I am going to sign off from this personal introduction of my own words, and remind you of what Jesus taught.

Listen now first to the voice of the Father who tells us to listen the voice of the Good Shepherd, Jesus, and to follow Him.

“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.” Mt 17:5

Repent and believe the good news, the kingdom of heaven is at hand Mark 1:15

Come after me and I will make you fishers of men. Mark 1:17

I do will it, be made clean (to the leper) 1:41

Child, your sins are forgiven Mark 2:5

Whose sins you shall forgive are forgiven; whose sins you retain are retained Jn 20

Mark 2:15 (to Levi:) Follow me

Whoever does the will of my heavenly father is mother brother and sister to me Mk 3:35

Your faith has saved you. Go in peace and be cured of your affliction Mk 5:34

But what comes out of a person, that is what defiles. From within people, from their hearts, come evil thoughts, unchastity, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, licentiousness, envy, blasphemy, arrogance, folly. All these evils come from within and they defile Mark 7:21-23

Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. Mk 8:34

What profit is there for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Mk 8:36 against those who speak about the world so much

Everything is possible to one who has faith. Mark 9:23

Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child* will not enter it. Mk 10:15

Therefore I tell you, all that you ask for in prayer, believe that you will receive it and it shall be yours. When you stand to pray, forgive anyone against whom you have a grievance, so that your heavenly Father may in turn forgive you your transgressions. Mk 11:24-25

“Which is the first of all the commandments?” Jesus replied, “The first is this: ‘Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone!

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” Mk 12:38-31

When you hear of wars and reports of wars do not be alarmed; such things must happen, but it will not yet be the end. Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes from place to place and there will be famines. These are the beginnings of the labor pains. Mk 13:7-8

The gospel must first be preached to all nations Mk 13:10

You will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who perseveres to the end will be saved. Mk 13:10

Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned. Mk 16:15-16

One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.’ You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test.’ The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve. Mt 4

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. * Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.* Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you [falsely] because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. Thus they persecuted the prophets who were before you. Mt 5:3-12

Whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do so will be called least in the kingdom of

heaven. But whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven Mt 5:19

I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you Mt 5:44

Seek first the kingdom [of God] and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides Mt 6:33

Do to others whatever you would have them do to you. This is the law and the prophets Mt 7:12

Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven,* but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven Mt 7:21

He said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. Mt 9:9

Behold, I am sending you like sheep in the midst of wolves; so be shrewd as serpents and simple as doves Mt. 10:16

When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say. You will be given at that moment what you are to say. For it will not be you who speak but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you Mt 10:19-20

When they persecute you in one town, flee to another. Amen, I say to you, you will not finish the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes. Mt 10:23

Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father. But whoever denies me before others, I will deny before my heavenly Father. Mt 10:33

Whoever does not take up his cross* and follow after me is not worthy of me. Mt 10:38

Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest Mt 11:28

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light. Mt 11:29-30

Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive him? As many as seven times?” Jesus answered, “I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times. Mt 18:21-22

Be merciful, just as [also] your Father is merciful. Lk 6:36

Neither do I condemn you. Go, [and] from now on do not sin any more. Jn 8:11

I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly. Jn 10:10

Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith* in God; have faith also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. Jn 14:1-3

I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. Jn 14:6

Whatever you ask in my name, I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything of me in my name, I will do it. Jn 14:13-14

As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and remain in his love. “I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I love you Jn 15-9-12

Now this is eternal life, that they should know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ. Jn 17:3

I made known to them your name and I will make it known, that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them. Jn 17:23

What concern is it of yours? You follow me.” Jn 21:22

“All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, until the end of the age. Mt 28:18