

## Homily

The readings from Last week reminded us about the vocation we have as Christians. We have all been called by God, since baptism, to fulfill a mission from the particular condition of life that each one of us has.

The readings presented us with the figures of the prophet and the apostle. What was common between them was God called and send them on a mission. This made us understand that we are also those prophets and apostles called and sent by God, at this moment in our lives, in the midst of our society.

On this Sunday, the readings follow the same line of teaching based on the image of the Shepherd. The first thing we must understand is such an idea is not directed only at ordained ministers or priests, who we usually call pastors. The idea goes further, it also refers to another aspect of the mission God has entrusted us: shepherding the flock of God from our Christian vocation and particular life.

The first thing we hear is that God does not want "people who are not good shepherds" who instead of uniting, divide; instead of helping they take advantage of the weakest. This is the claim God makes to the prophet.

That is why in the Gospel Jesus expresses with concern "the people were like sheep without a shepherd". It is an expression of sadness on the part of Jesus to see

His people walk lost in this world. Jesus realizes that His people, His fellows, those charged with doing good, have simply neglected their task.

But how can we know if we are good shepherds or not? How do you know if we are fulfilling the task Jesus entrusts to us? Jesus himself, with His life and works, gives the teaching of how to be shepherds for all our brothers.

Jesus, with His life and words, fills all those in need, heals the sick, is close to those who feel lonely and abandoned, cares and gives hope to those considered lost by sin and leads them to the safe place which is the mercy of the Father. This is the work of shepherding that Jesus wants, does, and teaches us.

Our work as "shepherds" in our homes, of our family, goes far beyond simple care and providing basic things. The Lord does ask to go and bring the good news of the Gospel to all men, to be able to bring back those who are far from God. It is a task that must be done every day all the time.

It is a reality, there are many of our brothers who walk like "sheep without a shepherd", and they are those who do not find meaning in their lives, those who feel sad because they have not known the joy of Jesus in their lives. We must go to them; we must be with them.

The pastor that Jesus teaches us is not the one who directs and orders, no. Is the one who is close, who gets to know, who comforts and cares for those most in need.

Deep down, Jesus, with his life as a shepherd, teaches us he wants to fulfill the will of his Father and "none of those that God has given Him should be lost."

Let us ask God to be able to put all our trust and hope in Him, and may our task of taking His message to people far from Him, we do it with the assurance that one day we will all be one flock, led by a single Shepherd.

God bless you.

Fr. Jhakson