FOLLOW THE FOOT STEPS OF THE FLOCK

As I was reading Song of Songs once again, this phrase hooked my attention.

Just listen to the conversation between the two lovers. The Beloved longs to be with her lover and she asks

TELL ME, O, YOU WHOM I LOVE WHERE YOU FEED YOUR FLOCK WHERE YOU MAKE IT REST AT NOON? And the lover answers

IF YOU DO NOT KNOW , O FAIREST AMONG WOMEN, FOLLOW THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE FLOCK AND FEED YOUR LITTLE GOATS BESIDE THE SHEPHERD'S TENTS.

The relationship between the believer and the Maker is essentially a love relationship, a very intimate one. Love on the Cross is the bridge that reconnects the disconnected man from the Father God. And when we still run towards the Father God it is essentially the cord of love which binds us close to Him.

In the heart of every one God has placed the spark of eternity(Ecc 3,11), which yearns to reach out for the extended arms of the Father. But we need to seek the Saviour. The shepherds sought for Baby Jesus, the wise men followed the star were misled once, but came on track and found the Saviour.

Even this day, in our Christian exodus we need to search the Saviour, we need to have the yearning to find this Shepherd of our souls, to be near Him, in His presence. The Beloved makes very discreet enquiries to know where her Lover is. She wants to meet Him later, so asks Him where He will feed the flock at noon. And she gets a very practical and a beautiful answer. "Simply follow the footsteps of the flock."

Even this day there is such a longing and yearning to search the Lord but so many are confused where to find the real Saviour. They run to God-men seeking to find God through them, running to concerts hoping for that one touch. But just hear this simple but very poignant instruction from the Master, *follow the footsteps of the flock!*

You will surely find the Shepherd with His sheep. Follow the sheep who know the Shepherd. Go to the Shepherd's tent, the House of God. Still follow the instructions. To follow the Footsteps, turn the pages of the Word of God, the infallible Truth. The Word of God is still the only answer to life's so many unanswered and unanswerable questions. But the tragedy in today's Christian world is there is so little of the Word of God, but there is so much excitement so many meetings, so many worship services, so many ministries and somehow instead of following the Shepherd we are following what seems good to our hearts. And we easily endorse it with the verse that God will grant all the desires of our hearts.

If you want to know the Shepherd deeply and intimately in a love relationship there is no substitute for the time spent in His presence alone, no substitute for the personal intense moments of prayer, no substitute for personally reading and meditating the Word of God.

Write this deeply in your hearts. Check your hearts how much time you spend in secret with Him. This message is not only for starters but more so for ministers of God. When I was stepping into ministry one aunty who always prayed for me told me in full earnest, "Laura never never compromise your personal devotion time even for any great ministry." And I always carry these words in my heart as a warning from that saint of God.

Personally speaking, God has blessed the work of my hands in the portion He has allotted to me. There were times when I was totally out of touch with God, doing that which was not His will and yet I could see God still blessing the ministry. And the temptation was so high to convince myself that since God is working, what I am doing can also be right, but deep inside I knew I was wrong. But I was trying to convince myself it was ok. But God in His grace and mercy pulled me out of the dirt , washed me once again, restored me and poured out His love all over me again.

It takes real courage to follow the footsteps once again tearing us away from friends, away from all that we hold dear, into the wilderness, into the abandonment of the Shepherd's tent, where there are no cell phone calls, no sms, no meetings, no ministries, no songs, but only the Shepherd, but that too He seems so distant, not to be seen. But my friend wait on the Lord in your loneliness, in your pain, in your abandonment and suddenly the God of Glory will appear, suddenly in an instant all the dark clouds will disperse and there you will see His face in all Glory. And as you behold that Beauty all the sorrows you suffered so far you will not even remember. There is nothing more you need.

This sunday my Pastor (Dr. Gideon Jacob) spoke so powerfully about the Abiding Anointing from I John 2 and illustrating it with the olive tree vision found in Zechariah 4. It was one of those messages that just make your soul leap with joy. He spoke that for the lamps to burn continuously we must always be in touch with the living Source that is God Himself and that His oil will keep flowing into our lives if we keep on reading the Word and keep on praying, abiding in His Presence.

Yes my dear friends are you weary running from meeting to meeting, seeking just that one word. Stop now and turn around, follow the footsteps, come to the living source, the Chief Shepherd who can clear the clogged pipes of your life, fill you with golden oil of His Presence, Power and Joy. But you have to go to Him alone and wait on Him and the One whom you seek will come suddenly on you. If you are running on your own strength stop till you completely burn yourself out, go to the living source and do not let go of Him, till He comes suddenly on you.

Oh Lord, oh Lord help us long for your intimate presence away from the noises of the world, away from all the busy activities and to sit quietly in the lonely places, wait on you, hunger for that touch only from Your hand Lord. Lead us to the mountain of glory where You will come suddenly into my life. Oh Lord let me see your Glory....In Jesus name. Amen, Amen, Amen.

My friends there are no shortcuts or any other powerful recommendations,(be it any prophet or apostle) effective enough to meet the Shepherd instantly⊗ But Follow the Footsteps ©

FOR TO THIS YOU WERE CALLED BECAUSE CHRIST ALSO SUFFERED FOR US LEAVING US AN EXAMPLE THAT YOU SHOULD FOLLOW HIS STEPS. I PETER 2,21.

Check for previous messages at Laura's comfort corner found in Christian family links in <u>www.tamilchristian.com</u>