

# HEARING THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE



*I want to Follow the Shepherd  
Signe Flink*

Christianity is complicated these days.

So many issues:

Doctrinal issues.

Life-style issues.

Political issues.

You have to stay sharp to be on the right side of things.

By contrast, Jesus keeps it simple. All those issues are swallowed up in one sentence:

***“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.”***

Jesus speaks, we listen.

Jesus leads, we follow.

Jesus commands, we obey.

It all begins when we hear his voice.

Until we hear his voice, we may be doctrinally sound, politically “Christian”, we may have a life-style that rival’s John the Baptist.

But we’re dead.

We're dead until we hear the Shepherd's voice.

***“The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God. And those who hear shall live.”***

***John 5***

The Shepherd says, “Follow me!”

Do we hear it down by the river?

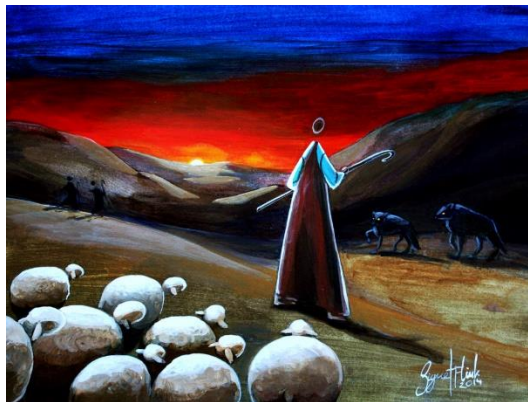
Do we hear it in a church?

Do we hear it from the bottom of a pit?

Do we hear it while a friend is tempting us with a fortune?

Jesus is not an ideology, or an insight or a program, or “seven steps to salvation”.

**Jesus is our Shepherd.**



The Good Shepherd Gives His Life for the Sheep

Either we follow the voice of the Shepherd....or we're still in darkness.

It's his voice that counts, the words that he speaks.

Those words are Spirit and Life.

Those words are fire.

They are a dividing sword.

The Shepherd is able to make his voice heard without our help.

He draws us to himself and speaks to us in a thousand ways.

**The Shepherd gathers us together and speaks.**



The Good Shepherd Brings Us to  
Good Pasture      Signe Flink

***“Wherever two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”***

**Matthew 18**

It could be five souls sitting under an oak tree.  
It could be a handful gathered in a storefront.  
Or a mega church or an old cathedral.

When it’s more than a “church routine”, when the focus is on him, the Shepherd speaks.

Through the words of a hymn.

A casual greeting.

A message from scripture.

Maybe two sentences in a dry sermon.

***“My sheep hear my voice.”***

**The Shepherd speaks through the voice of a stranger.**

My wife and I are sitting at the departure gate and have just been told that our flight has been cancelled.

A young woman begins to weep.

We ask if we can help.

“I’ve got to get home! I don’t know what to do.”

This is no accident. This is the Shepherd saying, *“Forget your own problem and help this woman.”*

## ***The Shepherd speaks through the four gospels.***

Jesus never wrote a book. He did not need to.

The Spirit bore witness to him through his followers.

***“But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.”***

### ***John 14***

When we go to the four gospels seeking a word from our Shepherd, he never fails to speak words that empower us.

Sometimes to repent.

Sometimes to forgive.

Sometimes to move a mountain.

## ***The Shepherd’s voice---from Genesis to Revelation.***



Thorns

Signe Flink

Once we begin hearing the voice of our Shepherd in the gospels, he leads us through the mystery of redemptive history from its dawn to the present moment.

Reading the Bible is like climbing Mount Sinai to meet with God. The mountain is rough and strange. We are mystified and baffled. Then we begin to hear the voice of the Shepherd.

***All we like sheep have gone astray. We have turned everyone to his own way. And the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.***

***Isaiah 53***

By the time we get to Revelation the voice of the Shepherd thunders like rushing water.

***"Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense, to repay every one for what he has done.***

***I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."***

***Revelation 22***

***When we pray, the Shepherd not only listens, he speaks.***



The Good Shepherd Saves  
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And when we pray, we not only speak, we listen.

We listen in silence.

We let the Shepherd speak to us through a Psalm.

We remember a promise.

We ponder a command.

***"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father. And he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever, even the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him.***

***You know him, for he dwells with you and shall be in you.***

***I will not leave you desolate. I will come to you."***

***John14***

Christianity is complicated these days.

Following Jesus is simple.

Our Shepherd speaks, we listen.

He leads, we follow.

He commands; we obey

***“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.***

***And I give them eternal life.***

***And they shall never perish.***

***And no one shall snatch them out of my hand.”***

**John 10**



The Good Shepherd Heals Our Wounds  
Signe Flink

*Prayer Loving Lord, tender Shepherd, without your voice, we are lost, we are dead. Speak to us Jesus so we may live again. May we hear your sweet voice above all the other calls in this world that seem like they are right, but instead lead us to despair, division and darkness. May the Counselor, your Holy Spirit be with us, dwell in us, so we know when it is truly you calling. Help us to open our ears to hear you throughout our days... in our prayers, by a word, in a verse, in a conversation, by a coincidence, in circumstances good and bad. Empower us to follow and obey you because we know you, the Holy One is speaking. And may we also know, really know that as we follow, we are never alone... because you know us... you hold us tightly, you protect us, you will never abandon us, and you will lead us to life.*

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THE LAMB  
WHO WAS SLAIN  
HAS BEGUN HIS REIGN