

Convention Devotion by Laura Boeberitz: Christian Events Coordinator

*John 10:27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me.*

When we were fresh in our marriage, my husband and I found what we thought was the perfect house. We had been pre-approved for a mortgage based on our incomes. We were living in an apartment, so we were ready for a home of our own. It was cute. It was an older house, a bungalow with stucco on the walls, not too far from our families or church and it was in our price range. Since we were young, we brought both sets of parents to see it. They agreed it was “a fine starter home”. We were so excited! We went back to our apartment with a purchase agreement and we were all ready to sign it, until it occurred to me this was a BIG decision. I had been taught to pray about big decisions. So, before we signed our names on the line, I convinced my husband to pray with me. We prayed and the answer I felt was unmistakably “wait”. I couldn’t believe it. I prayed some more and the answer I felt was the same, “not now, wait”. I was just praying sort of as a formality. I didn’t think the answer would be no!

This was a Sunday evening, we let the document sit and did not sign it. The next day I went into work and was told that I would be laid off for a while. I would not be able to keep my position as a full-time teacher of children with learning disabilities at the center where I worked. My stomach dropped. I was in shock. I felt relieved we had not moved on that house, awed that God did truly know what he was doing, but mainly incredibly disappointed that we could not buy that house or any other right then.

Like a shepherd, God knows what is the best pasture for his sheep. He knows the time to move the sheep and what are the best paths to follow. It was not the right house and it was not the right time, even though we wanted it to be. *Psalms 23:1-3 The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul, He guides me along the right paths for his name’s sake.*

Several months later, we found another house not using my income as a factor. This house was farther east, in an area we had not considered previously, but still close enough to go to our home church. After we moved in, I was able to get a job at a Lutheran preschool even farther east. I worked there until I started having children. If we had bought the first house, I would have never gotten the preschool job. I would not have looked in that area. God knew the best path to follow. We needed to trust him.

Now comes the amazing part of this story. Let us fast forward almost thirty years. A single mom coworker has become a member of a Lutheran church. Her young son has just been baptized, and my oldest son is his godfather. She and her son are as close as family to me, my husband and my grown children. If I did not have the experience and skills, I gained from working at that preschool job years ago, I would never have met her! *Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.* Like a shepherd, God knows what is best for all of his sheep, his entire flock. He will guide us in the right paths, if we ask, if we look to him to lead us.

We Pray: Heavenly Father, help us to trust you to lead us. Even when things don't make sense to us or they seem hard, help us to follow the path you show us. Amen

Optional Questions:

What is something you've really wanted in your life?

Has there been a time when you've trusted God and all has worked out well?

Is there something you are trying to get/do on your own, when God is asking you to let him lead you?

Look at Psalm 23. What verse best describes where you are in your walk with your shepherd right now?

Other verses about God:

Psalm 23, Phil. 2:13, Jer. 29:11,