

THE *Good Shepherd's Heart*

— LIVING PARABLES —

The Voice of My Beloved Ministry Publication



Welcome back to the The Good Shepherd's Heart: Living Parables!

These parables are an account of my real-life encounters with the Good Shepherd, which are by His divine design, and contain the heavenly jewels of revelation, wisdom and priceless lessons in leadership and stewardship that He has graciously taught me. These encounters began soon after arriving in Ireland in late September 2015. They take place on the countless prayer walks we have done, walking the beautiful farmland and coastal shores in County Kerry. They are what I call Living Parables where the Master Teacher has me walk something out in the natural, then makes me very aware He is there to teach me a spiritual lesson, wanting me to see another facet of His beautiful Good Shepherd's heart.

Often in life we find ourselves in less than desirable circumstances feeling unsatisfied. Yet, despite what our eyes see or flesh may feel, the Lord wants to take those things and the ways of this world that are meant to harm us, and use them to create a holy hunger within our soul, and work them for our good.

It is my humblest honor to share the Good Shepherd's heart with you. I pray this accounting will bless you, strengthen you and encourage you to finish the race that is set before you. May you hear the Good Shepherd's voice calling you to the Well of Life that never runs dry, enabling you to keep moving forward into the eternal plans He has for you!

In His loving Mercy,

Tracy Hogan



Living Parable: A Holy Hunger!



After our morning ministry call to pray for our nation, I was anxious to go for a prayer walk with the Lover of my soul – the only One Who can save us, heal us, deliver us and set us free from the slavery and tyranny that wants to destroy us as a people, tribe, tongue and nation. I wanted to just keep praying for His Kingdom to come and His will to be done in and through the ministry and for those things which concern His high and lofty, noble heart for our land. It was a chilly and bright morning for early April. The weather forecast was for rain, sleet, hail and possibly snow in the coming days. Unusual weather for this time of year, but with those thoughts in mind, I headed out the door a little after 7:30 A.M. to enjoy the beautiful morning and good weather while it lasted.

After a short visit with my neighbor's calves – Bo and Bella, I was quickly lost in prayer walking the roads and hills that have become so familiar to the soles of my feet. With a full day ahead of me, I had decided on one of our shorter walks – about four miles up and down quiet backroads, with the rugged hills in the background. The spring lambs were coming forth and every now and then I would come across a field where these precious ones dotted the landscape with their innocent beauty, bringing a smile to my heart as we passed by them.

About half way, a thought came to mind: that it has been a while since encountering the Good Shepherd and wondered when I might again. It was a fleeting thought that I quickly let go of, as we walked and prayed, just thanking the Lord for this time, as my feet stepped in unison with His footsteps. After passing a few more farms, I came onto the main road that takes you into town. The road is not normally too busy this time of year, but at this time of day and still in lockdown 5, it was quieter than usual – not a single car passed by.

As I prayed in the spirit, with my thoughts on the state of affairs in our land, I came upon fields that were full of sheep. As I approached the first field, some sheep were lying down, while others were grazing the lush grass. As I passed by, I spoke to them saying, *"We love you – each and every one, and kisses to you all right between the eyeballs."* They started baaing and moving in my direction. The field next to them was not as desirable. It was rugged and barren with little grass for the sheep to eat. As I passed this field, they too all started baaing and moving towards me.

I stopped to watch them for a moment. Some were climbing down from the rocky slopes that backed up their field with great eagerness, causing others that were nearer to the road to follow suit. They were all moving towards me and baaing non-stop! This caused the sheep that I had just passed to continue to baa loudly and persistently. I smiled, not thinking much of it and said to the Lord, *"Ah, Lord, they are hungry – they just want food."*

It was in that moment that I knew the Good Shepherd was ever so near, wanting to reveal His beautiful and noble heart, once again, that He has for His precious sheep! I could only marvel at how His ways are surely not our ways, and His thoughts are not our own. How when I least expect it, He is there wanting to make His thoughts my own. There was another field next to the one where I was now standing, and all the sheep were doing the same thing – baaing loudly and moving towards me! Their collective baas – their cries for food, were so loud that it was impossible to ignore them. And, at the same time, even though they were all baaing at the same time, I could hear that their baas were all so different! Each one, despite being in different folds and surrounded by so many, had a unique baa – or voice, and it was detectable. Some were more pitiable than others.

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As I stood watching, I felt the Good Shepherd's heart immeasurable love that He has for every one of His precious sheep, in a greater measure. After a few moments, I continued our walk. As I moved further away, their baas did not lessen, but increased – they were so loud! I could only turn around to watch them one more time. They were all baaing and running towards me, the one who they thought would feed them. All eyes were on me, with a great expectation

on their part to be fed. It was impossible to keep walking and ignore their cries of hunger! They tugged at my heart greatly and I did not want to leave them. Instead, I desperately wanted to feed them, for I knew it was the Good Shepherd's heart that I was feeling and how He wants to feed those who hunger for Him.

So too, when we become like those hungry sheep, and come running to Him – no matter what our circumstances may be or what condition He may find us in, if we run to Him – hungry and thirsty for Him – He will not disappoint us, but feed us with what we need to fulfill our destinies. For the hunger of the Lord will consume us, to the point, where we will only hunger for Him. To the point, where we will have dove's eyes for Him alone and what He wants for our lives. When we do, it will leave the Lover of our soul with only one option and that is to come and to satisfy our holy hunger. For He will not pass by and ignore our persistent, fervent pleas to be filled with Him and the eternal plans that He has for our lives.

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Beloved, are you finding yourself in less than desirable circumstances today? Perhaps, feeling more alone than ever with the loss of a loved one. Or, feeling defeated for no matter what you say or do, despite all of your best efforts to keep following the Lamb wherever He may lead, they bring you to a dead end, every time. Or, perhaps, you are just weary – feeling the battle is too great, feeling that you have no strength to keep moving forward.

Be assured, though, the Good Shepherd is ever so near and He hears every one of your cries. He sees all your tears, and especially the silent tears that you have wept that no one else sees – not one has escaped the heat of His gaze. His eyes are firmly fixed upon you. He sees where others have hurt or betrayed you, leaving your emotions in a dry barren place with no relief in sight. He sees all of your failures, mistakes

and regrets. And, at the same time, He sees all the ways that man and this world's ways of doing things has failed you and forsaken you, leaving a holy dissatisfaction within the embers of your soul. Yet, despite it all, know that He is using it for your good! For all things work together for good to those who love Him, according to His eternal purpose for your life. For He has been taking that which Satan wanted to destroy you with, and has been using it to create a holy hunger within your soul. A hunger that can only be satisfied with His holy, pure ways and eternal plans for your life.

So beloved, be of good cheer! Despite man's plans and Satan's plans to destroy you, His plans will supersede their plans for your life. For He sees and hears your hunger for Him – your desire to be like Him in word, thought and deed. He sees your hunger to be One with Him – to be His Bride, one who will make herself ready – one who will not be of this world, but one whom the world is not worthy. That hunger – His holy hunger, placed within our souls, will cause us to cry out as never before in these last days, all the while we run to the water of Life – to the Well that never runs dry. That Well of Living Water – Yeshua, will provide the strength, courage, healing and strategies that we need to navigate through the dark days ahead, enabling us to push back the darkness, so that His truth, light, restoration and redemption may come to those who desperately need a revelation of His holy love so that their captive souls can be set free.

And, at the same time, that hunger – His holy hunger within us, will cause us to keep running from every other voice that is not His voice. It will cause us to run swiftly from the doctrines of demons, false prophets and false teachers that are rising up in our spheres of influence wanting to deceive us and destroy the eternal plans that He has for our lives – to be the Bride of Messiah. His holy hunger within our souls will keep us safely in His sheep fold, where we will freely come in and go out to be about the Father's business. And, as we do, the Good Shepherd will provide everything that we need to complete the works our Father has sent us to this earth to complete for all that we need is found in the safety of His sheep fold.

That holy hunger will cause the grace and wisdom of the Lord to be poured out upon our lives, giving us what we need to keep following the Lamb of God, wherever He may lead no matter how uncomfortable, inconvenient or what it may cost. Not our will being

done, but His, for the Lamb deserves to receive the reward of His suffering in the fullest measure – our lives presented to Him as a living sacrifice, every step and every breath we breathe, all to His glory!

Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. And He [further] said to me, it is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I [Myself] will give water without price from the fountain of the water of Life. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. [Isaiah 55:1, Revelation 21:6, Matthew 5:6] AMEN!



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A Call to the Nations Ministry

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PO Box 140 | Kenmare, County Kerry | Ireland

www.thevoiceofmybeloved.com | info@thevoiceofmybeloved.com