

Grace-filled Voices

February 24, 2015

Lessons from a Sheepdog

by Kay Focke

Some Thoughts Taken From the Book, Lessons From a Sheep Dog by Philip Keller

This is a book I have loved since it came out in the 1980's. Philip Keller has written several other Christian books, among them, *A Shepherd Looks at the 23rd Psalm*.

In writing the 23rd Psalm, David, writer of Psalms, is showing the love and understanding our Good Shepherd has for us, His people, and how perfectly He cares for us. In *Lessons From a Sheep Dog*, Mr. Keller demonstrates our working, loving, co-relationship and responsibility with our Master.

In the recounting of his actual experiences, Keller points out that as Christians, we have come from the wrong master into the ownership of our right and perfect Master. Lass the dog turns from being a hating, attacking, fearful dog from whom nothing good can be expected, into the most amazing, loving, understanding and hard working co-worker that can be imagined. Keller says God "taught me emphatically what His highest purposes and best intentions were for me as His friend and coworker". "For He does make it very clear that as His people, He calls us to special service with Himself". Then he says that he "felt an enormous compassion for this beautiful dog. An intense longing permeated my whole being for her to come to me, to get to know me, to trust

me, to learn to love me, to work with me, to be my friend". "I yearned to see her rise to the potential that lay dormant within her." Do we hear God saying that about us?

See if you can put your name in the place of "Lass" in this recounting of the true tale. "Lass also began to realize that not only did I understand her, but that I also know all about sheep, ranching, and the exciting part she could play in the whole operation". God "can, and does, break through into human affairs in supernatural ways. Yet in the main He chooses to use us ordinary people to accomplish His grand designs. Seen in this dimension we begin to perceive the enormous honor He bestows on those chosen to become His coworkers".

This book demonstrates that as we grow in our relationship with Christ, we are guided by His continual presence and we come into harmony with the role for which we were created. Lass the sheep dog learned to look only to her master, to trust him wholly and to accept food, provision and direction only from him. Surely, we can look forward to the same results when we look only to our heavenly Master for all our needs and direction.

Lessons From a Sheep Dog has been out of print for some years, but is still available through book sources other than the publisher.

This Week at Grace

February 24, 2015—March 3, 2015

Tues. February 24

11:30 a.m. Bible Study
6:30 p.m. Lenten Soup Supper
7:00 p.m. Lenten Teaching
Video by Bishop John Guernsey
On "Prayer"
(Will be repeated on
Wednesday at 2:00 p.m.)

Wed. February 25

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Service
2:00 p.m. Lenten Teaching
Video by Bishop John Guernsey
On "Prayer"
3:00 p.m. Stand Up for Kids Meal
3:30 p.m. Staff Meeting

Thurs. February 26

7:00 a.m. Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Sr. Women's Bible Study
4:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Fri. February 27

Fr. Joe's Day off
6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer & Healing

Sat. February 28

8:00 a.m. Bible Study

Sun. March 1

Second Sunday in Lent

7:30 a.m. Spoken Eucharist Service
9:15 a.m. Nursery opens
9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Service
9:30 a.m. Children's Church
11:15 a.m. Coffee and Fellowship

Mon. March 2, 2015

Time Change: - March 6th

On Saturday, March 5th, **set your clocks ahead one hour** before you go to bed. Daylight Savings Time begins at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 6th. Sorry, you will lose an hour of sleep.

**Grace Anglican Church
760-730-9900**

**www.graceanglicanchurch.com
churchoffice@graceanglicanchurch.com**

Bible Readings for February 15, 2015

Genesis 22:1-14

Psalms 16:5-11

Romans 8:31-39

Mark 8:31-38

We are using the English Standard Version of the Bible and the Lectionary from the Book of Common Prayer (Year B)

Bishop Keith Andrews will be with us on April 26th for his first visit to our congregation as Bishop. If you would like to be confirmed, received or baptized by the Bishop, please contact the church office. To be confirmed, you will need some education so please let us know right away so we can set up the proper classes.

Wednesday Mornings at 10:00
Join us for a service of
Holy Eucharist at Grace

The **7:30 a.m. Spoken Service** For those who want a quiet worship experience come to the spoken service at Grace at 7:30 a.m. on Sundays. We know there are people who are unable to come to the 9:30 service.