

Footsteps of the Flock

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Tell me, O thou whom my soul loveth, where thou feedest, where thou makest thy flock to rest at noon: for why should I be as one that turneth aside by the flocks of thy companions?

If thou know not, O thou fairest among women, go thy way forth by the footsteps of the flock, and feed thy kids beside the shepherds' tents. Song of Solomon 1:7-8

I often revisit the same vision when I pray. I see a long path leading far into the distance. The sun is just setting on the horizon. Lanterns are placed on the sides of the path guiding the forging traveler toward their goal. They are carefully positioned one by one by pioneers from ages gone by, each lantern illuminating the way for the spiritually sensitive travelers who seek the secrets of the well-lit path.

God is placing a deep desire for His bride to feed upon Him. She is encouraged by the testimony of others, but does not want to stop there. She must forge ahead herself. She cries out with intense spiritual hunger “Tell Me.” She needed more than just the overflow of someone else’s experience, “*The flock of thy companions.*” She needed more than just the testimony or ministry of another, it did not fill her deepest need. She began a diligent search for those who really know Him personally, those few that understand His “*ways not just his acts.*”

She must follow the “*footsteps of the flock*” journeying this road less traveled. She will learn their secrets and follow their example to the “*Shepherds Tent.*” It is there she too will be captivated by His love and favor. It is at the “*Shepherds Tent*” that she learns truths that can only be discovered experientially. A personal God embraces her in personal way.

At the “*Shepherds tent*” the pioneer now becomes the light bearer. Their journey now becomes a testimony. Others receive hope from their passage down the “*footsteps of the flock.*” The path is illuminated by precious truth of their testimony becoming a guiding light. Others clearly sense the approbation of God on them as His fragrance flows from their lives.

A pillar of the faith had placed each Lantern on that long path I saw in my vision. The lantern represents the testimonies of those that followed the “*footsteps of the flock*” before us. Precious ones like Walter Beuttler, John W Follette, Hattie Hammond, Praying Hyde, and our Wade Taylor. They give a lantern (testimony) for the journey; we now see more clearly the path we must forge ahead. We have hope that we too may reach the “*Shepherds Tent*”, to know Him and receive a personal revelation from a very personal God.