

Reflection Wednesday Week 20 – 2021

Another story about leadership:

There was a beautiful kingdom ruled by a young prince who took over after his father's death. He was soon tested. A drought caused losses for the farmers, killed many animals, birds, and precious plants in the forest. Then, an unknown disease killed many people. A little later, things started slowly improving but before they could recover completely, an enemy king invaded and took over the Kingdom. Fortunately, the young king escaped and went to visit his childhood friend who was the king of a neighbouring kingdom. On his way, he reflected that he was born and bred to be king of a most powerful and rich Kingdom but had lost everything. He believed this was bad luck because nothing like this had happened to his father or any other king he knew.

When the young king reached his friend's palace, the guards did not allow him in because he was dirty and dishevelled. So he took a job and eventually bought new clothes and was allowed to meet his friend. After hearing his story, his king friend gave him a flock of 100 sheep. The young king was surprised because he expected much more. He didn't want to be a shepherd but accepted the offer. After a few days, while grazing his flock, wolves attacked and killed them all. During the attack, the king ran away and hid. Again he went to his king friend and sought help. This time he received 50 Sheep. Once again wolves attacked and killed them. The 3rd time, he was given just 25 sheep. This time the young king decided to protect his sheep by adding fences and guards. He also learned how best to maintain and nurture his flock. After several years, his flock had grown to 1000 Sheep. Full of joy he met his friend and told him what he had achieved. This time the king friend gave him a whole state to rule over. At this, the young king asked "Why didn't you give me the state to rule when I first asked for help? The king friend replied, "When you first came for help, your thought you were born and bred to be a leader, but the truth was you were far from it. You might have been born to wealth, pride, and power, but you had never been properly educated and trained to lead people. So, when I gave you the flock, I was waiting for you to learn how to manage and lead others. Now I believe you are ready to lead!"

Being born into a powerful family or to a high position doesn't make you a leader. You may be in charge of others as a king or a leader, but having that position and doing nothing for the people under your control doesn't make you a leader, you need to learn to help, care and protect your people, like Jesus the Good Shepherd!