

Still in the Moment  
A Meditation based on “Follow the Leader” by Philip R. Jackson

T. M. Moore



“Follow the Leader,” by Philip R. Jackson

*Observation*

Describe each of the objects in this painting, in terms of name, color, and relationship to each other.

How do the objects taken together seem to relate to the title of the work?

To which of these objects are you *most* attracted? Why?

*Explanation*

What seems to be going on here? If you had to make a story of this painting, and share it with a child, what would you say? How does the title of the painting shape your explanation?

*Association*

What experiences of these objects come to mind as you view this work? Does your experience of these add anything to your enjoyment or understanding of the work? In what way?

Philip R. Jackson paints from out of the framework of a Christian worldview, and Christian themes frequently show up in his work. Does the “story” suggested by this painting bring to mind any spiritual issues or theological truths?

Meditate on John 14.6; Matthew 11.28-30; Matthew 16.24, 25; 1 John 2.1-6; and John 17.6-12. Assign a role, based on these verses, to each of the objects in this painting.

Meditate on and sing Psalm 23, as indicated:

*Tune: The Gift of Love – “Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire”*

vv. 1, 2

Because the Lord my Shepherd is, I shall not want, for I am His!  
He makes me lie in pastures full; I rest in Him by waters still.

vv. 3, 4

My soul He quickens and will bless; He leads in paths of righteousness.  
Though I may walk in death’s dark vale, I shall not fear – He will not fail!

vv. 4, 5

The Lord is ever by my side; His rod and staff with me abide.  
A table rich for me He spreads; with oil my Lord anoints my head.

v. 6

Goodness and mercy, full and free, shall ever after follow me,  
And in the house of God, my Lord, shall I abide forevermore!

How does this psalm apply to those who follow Jesus as their Leader?

*Interpretation*

Now, tell the story of this painting, reflecting all the insights you have gained from the Meditation.

*Take-away*

What’s your primary take-away from this Meditation on “Follow the Leader,” by Philip R. Jackson?

Does this painting encourage you to look a bit more closely at everyday objects? To think more about the meaning of discipleship? Explain.

In what sense are you a follower? To whom are you a leader?

Write a prayer expressing your experience during and what you have learned from this Meditation:

*For information on how to purchase paintings by Philip R. Jackson, visit his website, [www.p-jackson.com](http://www.p-jackson.com), and use the contact tab.*