

Commitment to Serve -Symbolism

In order to capture some of the significance of Christ's life, extra detail was put into this painting. Jesus leaves behind His family, His carpentry shop and tools, and has only one purpose driving Him forward: to fulfill the mission His Father sent Him to perform. His mother, Mary, is in the background tearfully watching her firstborn, the Son of God, embark on his mission to minister to others and fulfill His role as Savior of the world.

This painting is filled with symbolism. These are three symbols veiled in the painting:

1. In the sky, the clouds seem to part to Him, and one can see the shape of a man facing the form of a cross.
2. The sheep graze on their straw, but one looks up and notices his shepherd walking away. Instinctively, he turns to follow His master. "My sheep hear my voice" (John 10:27).
3. Joseph is in the background holding a yoke and showing it to a new apprentice. This references that when we rely on the Lord, our burdens will be lightened. "For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:30).