

# Let the Abbess Always Bear in Mind

by St. Benedict of Nursia

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*The sermon emphasizes the critical responsibilities of the Abbess in teaching and guiding her disciples, with eternal consequences at stake.*

**Scripture:** Hebrews 13:17

**Topics:** "Leadership Accountability", "Spiritual Guidance"

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## Description

St. Benedict of Nursia emphasizes the accountability of leaders, particularly abbesses, in guiding their disciples in teachings and obedience. He highlights the importance of shepherds taking responsibility for the spiritual growth and behavior of their flock, knowing that any lack of progress reflects on the leader. St. Benedict encourages leaders to diligently care for their restless followers, assuring them that their efforts will be recognized at the Lord's Judgment. He warns of the consequences of disobedience and the inevitable punishment that awaits those who reject guidance.

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## Transcript

Let the Abbess always bear in mind that at the dread Judgment of God there will be an examination of these two matters: her teaching and the obedience of her disciples. And let the Abbess be sure that any lack of profit the master of the house may find in the sheep will be laid to the blame of the shepherd.

On the other hand, if the shepherd has bestowed all her pastoral diligence on a restless, unruly flock and tried every remedy for their unhealthy behavior, then she will be acquitted at the Lord's Judgment and may say to the Lord with the Prophet: "I have not concealed Your justice within my heart; Your truth and Your salvation I have declared" (Ps. 39[40]:11). "But they have despised and rejected me" (Is. 1:2; Ezech. 20:27).

And then finally let death itself, irresistible, punish those disobedient sheep under her charge.

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