

4th Sunday of Easter Time - Year C

- When I was a boy I used to play with a YoYo – and I was pretty good
 - From the palm of my hand – and down – and right back up
 - From the palm of my hand – and straight out – and back again (Forward Pass)
 - From the palm of my hand – and let it stay – then back up again (Sleeper)
 - From the palm of my hand – out and around and then back (Around the World)
 - Now this is the one that I would always get tangled up in & have to start over
 - There is something about a YoYo that will help us understand a little bit about Jesus
- Did you notice that every one of these tricks started and ended exactly the same way? Each trick began and ended with the yo-yo right here -- in the palm of my hand.
- One day, some people asked Jesus to tell them plainly if he was the Christ.
 - He answered them saying, "I told you, but you did not believe me because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand."
- When you give your heart to Jesus and place your life in his hands, you have his promise that you are safe and that nothing can snatch you from his hand.
 - Oh, you may have your "ups and downs."
 - You may even stray away at times, but just a little tug will pull you right back into His hand.
 - Even if you really mess up, like I did on the "around the world" trick, he picks you up and places you right back where you belong -- in the palm of his hand.
 - What a wonderful promise! Jesus has you in the palm of his hand and nothing can take you from his hand!

- That is why TODAY we have Psalm 100 as our Responsorial Psalm

Actually Psalm 100 has a message that is tucked away in all three readings

"We are His people, the sheep of His flock"

1st Reading Paul & Barnie say that the Lord sent them

"THAT YOU MAY BE AN INSTRUMENT *OF SALVATION* TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH" → To the ends of the Earth!

From Antioch to Sharon!

The message of salvation has gone forth AND STILL DOES *WHY?*

"We are His people, the sheep of His flock"

Whether the wolf may come with teeth and claw

Or with temptation and sin –

"We are His people, the sheep of His flock"

And the shepherd is with us

- In the 2nd reading from REV "A great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, race, people & tongue come before the throne, washed in the blood of the lamb worshipping day&nite"
WHY? **"We are His people, the sheep of His flock"**

- In the Gospel Jesus says it straight out -
 - My sheep hear my voice, I know them, and they follow me
WHY? **"We are His people, the sheep of His flock"**

We don't believe JC *was* the Good Shepherd - We believe JC *IS* the Good Shepherd

Everything in V28 is in the present tense

I give them eternal life

It is a continual action

My Sheep Hear

I Know Them

They Follow Me

I Give Them Eternal Life – continually, without end ***GOOD NEWS***

Because, like PS 100 says - **We are His people, the sheep of His flock"**