

4th Sunday of Easter Time - Year B

Today we hear about the Good Shepherd - I actually know someone who was a Shepherd
Stupid – they'd get caught in brambles, eat thorns, wander off & hurt themselves
We all know what a shepherd does – He takes care of the sheep.

What does it mean to be “Good” shepherd ?

Well there are two kinds of shepherds

Good Shepherd – where the sheep are priority and Hireling – where his pay is the priority

How do you know the difference - DECISIONS THEY MAKE

Decisions to find good pasture, clean water, how to care for the sheep

Or decisions to run away when faced with danger or stand and defend the sheep

Decisions to give themselves totally, unto death – OR NOT

Shepherd used a staff - heavy, thick wood. Long, with a curved end on top

Long end – to prod/direct

Curve – to grab the sheep AND as a club to protect

NB - JC says when the wolf comes – NOT IF THE WOLF COMES

The wolf is coming for us – and we need a shepherd

That's why a Bishop's crosier is shaped like a Shepard's staff - they are our Shepherds

In reality, our Bishops don't use a Shepherd's staff to shepherd us.

The bible is their Shepherd's staff

When we stray – they use teachings from God's Word to pull us back

When we need spiritual food – they use God's Word to feed us

When we need protection – God's Word defends us

Remember when Jesus was tempted in the desert? JC under attack by satan

Every temptation was met by Jesus quoting scripture

WE need to spend time in script.

WE need to feed on script to hear God speak to us

What does JC mean by saying there are other sheep not of this fold?

Aren't we all of His fold? There is a difference between a flock and a fold

Flock – is one shepherd's group of sheep

Fold – is when all the flocks come together

At night multiple shepherds bring flocks together

They'd be in one common corral – a sheep fold

Shepherds slept at the gate – wolves had to go thru them!

In morning each shepherd calls his sheep & they only follow his voice

THIS MEANS THE SHEEP NEED TO LISTEN TO HEAR HIS VOICE

- Where are we listening? How close are we to the Shepherd?

- If He called us would we recognize His voice?

- I said there was a difference between a Good Shepherd and a Hireling

Here is a question for us today at St. Catherine's

Who are the Good Shepherds in your life, who are the hirelings

WHO ARE WE FOLLOWING

Even tougher question – Are WE Good Shepherds or Hirelings?

Listen – if you don't think Jesus is shepherding you – you're wrong.

WE are God's beloved – WE are the sheep of His flock – WE are fed by His living Word

HE leads us to green pastures, to restful waters, and refreshes our soul.

He guides us by right paths for His name sake

AND even though WE walk in a dark valley WE will fear no evil, for HE is at our side

With His rod and staff to protect us and give us courage