

4th Sunday of Easter Time - Year A

1. I've mentioned a few times about being on my Uncle's farm
Henry would go out and call "Come On" 5x
Cows would come
I was sent to open the gate and call the cows – NOTHING
Henry came out – in they came
2. There is a difference with the Good Shepherd
 - a. Good Shepherd calls His sheep BY NAME
Different from Henry calling the herd –
Shepherd calls each *by name* and they know Him
THIS MEANS SHEPHERD HAS A RELATIONSHIP WITH SHEEP
They go to him for food, water, comfort – and he provides for them.

AND THIS MEANS THE SHEEP ARE LISTENING AND HEAR HIS VOICE
 - Where are we in relationship with the Shepherd?
 - Do we recognize His voice?

 - **Story of Auntie at Tea Party and Little Girls pic with big ears**
 - Can the Lord say we hear Him when He speaks
 - When we pray – we should include a time of silence.
 - b. As Shepherd – everyone is in the flock – all manner of people are in the flock
 - i. Good Shepherd is owner of them all
 - ii. Wherever you are in relationship with Jesus
 1. if you don't think He's shepherding you – you're wrong.
 2. The Shepherd knows who, where, what we are and its OK
 3. The Shepherd meets us where we are
3. Now, the Pharisee don't understand so Jesus says **Amen Amen I say to you KEY**
 - a. I am the gate – NOW THIS IS IMPORTANT
 - i. Gate of the sheepfold in the mountains was the Shepherd
 - ii. Shepherd was literally the gate – wolf to get to sheep, Shepherd would die
 - iii. ALSO true that to get OUT we pass through the Shepherd
 1. It is through Christ – peace that passes understanding
 2. It is through Christ – joy of the Lord that is our strength
 3. It is through Christ – salvation through the forgiveness of sin.
 4. It is through Christ – Abundant Life