

## Easter 4B

Today we hear about the Good Shepherd

What is the difference between the Good Shepherd and the hireling?

What makes the Good Shepherd GOOD?

DECISIONS – CHOICES they make.

How we act – decisions to run away during the test OR to stand and defend the sheep

Decisions – to give themselves totally OR NOT To love OR NOT

My uncle's farm & Dad getting the calf

He didn't have to – it was cold – snow – 5AM

But my father loved the idea of it – and he found the mother and her calf and brought them in.

He DECIDED to do it – it was his CHOICE – He was acting like the Good Shepherd

In the 1<sup>st</sup> reading from ACTS Peter is preaching after healing a cripple

He refers to Jesus as 'the stone that the builders rejected that has become the cornerstone'

He says 'There is no salvation through anyone else, nor is there any name under heaven by which we are saved'

DECISION – CHOICE --- our choice, Do you want salvation? Then we need JESUS – or NOT

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading from 1Jn it says

'the reason the world does not know us is because it does not know Him'

Again – DECISION – CHOICE - Christianity is no secret

Yet the world chooses SEX, DRUGS, MONEY, POWER , even APATHY

These are the ways of the Hireling, not the Good Shepherd

In the Gospel Jesus says

'I am the Good Shepherd – the Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep'

'The hireling is not a shepherd, the sheep are not his own, when the wolf comes he runs away'

There is a difference between a Good Shepherd and a Hireling – WHICH ARE WE?

Here's another question – WHO ARE WE FOLLOWING?

Shepherd or Hireling (we have both in our lives) – ASK - Who are your shepherds?

Who are your hirelings?

Who are you following?

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

2. Aren't we all of His fold?

- Well 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 fold of sheep

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

- Jesus is saying NO MORE DIVISION - One fold and one shepherd – Jesus

## **CAHS**

You are preparing to graduate and go out into the world

COB – US – jobs in NAS or here CHOICES/DECISIONS

**OTHERS** Where you go What you do How you live THESE ARE YOUR CHOICES - **DECIDE**  
Shepherd OR Hireling Keeping God first – or not