

Weekly Theme

W/C 8th May 2017



"Making the right choice"

John 10:1-10

Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, the person who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs in some other way, is a thief and a robber. The one who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. The one who guards the door opens it for him. And the sheep listen to the voice of the shepherd. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he brings all his sheep out, he goes ahead of them, and they follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger. They will run away from him because they don't know his voice." Jesus told the people this story, but they did not understand what it meant.

So Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, I am the door for the sheep. All the people who came before me were thieves and robbers. The sheep did not listen to them. I am the door, and the person who enters through me will be saved and will be able to come in and go out and find pasture. A thief comes to steal and kill and destroy, but I came to give life—life in all its fullness.

Today when sometimes we think about shepherds looking after sheep, we have a very fanciful idea about them. We picture cuddly sheep wandering around in green fields. When Jesus spoke about being a good shepherd he was speaking about the shepherds of his time, who was a tough outdoor man who lead mixed herds

of sheep and goats which wandered all over the place. But the shepherd knew his sheep and made sure they were safe from animals who would attack them or people who would try to steal them. The sheep knew the voice of their own shepherd and would only follow the voice that they recognised.

Who are the voices that we follow today? Is it the voice of the immoral elements of our society? Is it the voice of the popular but self-absorbed? Or do we follow the voice of Jesus?

Prayer

Loving Father, please give us the strength and courage that we need to follow Jesus, as our Good Shepherd.

May we trust him completely especially when life is confusing and hard.

Amen.