

TUESDAY EASTER 4

First Reading: Acts 11: 19-26;

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 87: 1b-3, 4-5, 6-7;

Gospel Reading: Jn 10: 22-30.

THEME: Hearing the Voice of the Good Shepherd and Following Him

A persecution of the Early Christians led to a scatter of the Jewish Christians to places like Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch. However, Christ the Good Shepherd was in control of their destiny. We continue to hear of the image of Jesus as the Shepherd in the Gospel reading. The image of the Good Shepherd should have been clear either from his statements, his way of life, and the signs he had been performing. All these realities were clearly done in the name of his heavenly Father. The works he had done were a consistent testimony of his true origins. Sadly, Jesus pointed out that, “But you do not believe, because you are not among my sheep.”

Christ, the Good Shepherd, listed the characteristics of true sheep or followers: “My sheep hear my voice; I know them, they follow me.” Biblically, to “hear” means: to listen, to understand, to assimilate fully into one’s own thinking, to carry out what one hears. To the disciples who possess these qualities, Jesus gives “eternal life.” The security of the sheep is in the power of the Shepherd and no one will snatch them from his hand because they have been given to him by the Father, whose power is greater than that of any enemy.

For a moment, reflect and ponder about what God is not able to do. God is always ABLE. Consequently, in an unequivocal answer to their original challenge, Jesus told his questioners: “The Father and I are one.” The power that the Son has is the same as the power of the Father. We have a powerful Good Shepherd who is always able. We are encouraged to consistently listen to his voice and follow his directives for the reward of eternal life.

By Fr. Sev Kupo, Associate Pastor