

April 25, 2021

4th Sunday of Easter

The Voice of Truth

“They will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd.” – John 10:16

Are you in it for the money or are you in it for the love of the game? We hear this often with professional athletes. Really the same can be said for many who are employed. Some jobs have great meaning and worth---more often than not it is how the employee sees his value and the value of the work.

In John’s Gospel this weekend we hear the story of the Good Shepherd. Jesus compares the shepherd who is only in it for the money to one who is in it for the love of sheep and the mission. The one in it for the money flees when a wolf appears so as to protect himself. Consequently, the wolf has his way with the sheep.

Jesus reminds his followers that He is the Good Shepherd, and they are like sheep. Because He is the Good Shepherd who cares for His flock, they respond to by following and trusting Him. The wolf is the evil one, Satan, who will do anything to confuse, scatter and kill the sheep. A good shepherd will oversee the flock from a high point to keep approaching danger away. When a sheep gets separated from the flock, the shepherd uses his staff and crook to pull the wayward sheep back. The good shepherd is always there for them. The good shepherd makes sure that they are well fed and their thirst is quenched. He provides everything they need.

Many of us are like sheep and will follow whatever voice we think is true. Jesus Christ came to show us the truth, to shepherd us through a world of danger and sin. He established His Church to help us, to lead and guide us, to shepherd us. And for centuries the Church has embraced this mission.

If we do not listen to the voice of truth, then we risk separation from the flock and may fall into danger. Jesus tells us, "They will hear my voice, and there will be one flock and one shepherd." Take some time today to sit in quiet reflection and listen to the voice of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, to hear what He saying to you.

- Bishop Gregory Parkes