

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD



May 11, 2014

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Lectionary: 49

Gospel jn 10:1-10

Jesus said: "Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever does not enter a sheepfold through the gate but climbs over elsewhere is a thief and a robber. But whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice, as the shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has driven out all his own, he walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice. But they will not follow a stranger; they will run away from him, because they do not recognize the voice of strangers." Although Jesus used this figure of speech, the Pharisees did not realize what he was trying to tell them. So Jesus said again, "Amen, amen, I say to you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly."

Spiritual Reflections

Jesus came "so that they/we might have life and have it more abundantly." St. Irenaeus of Lyon is often quoted as saying: "The glory of God is a person fully alive!"

Spiritual Questions

1. Do we truly believe Jesus wants us to live life to the fullest?
2. How do drugs, alcohol, lustful sex, etc prevent us from living life to the full?
3. How does Jesus' life back up His words?
4. How can you get better at knowing the Shepherd's voice?
5. Who are some of the thieves in the world today?