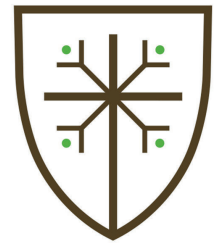


Eastertide

April 9 – May 28

SERMON NOTES



April 30, 2023

SERMON INFO

TITLE

Knowing Our Shepherd

PREACHER

Rev. Tim Frickenschmidt

TEXTS

Ezekiel 34: 1-4, 11-12, 15-16

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-14

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The John 10 shepherd goes beyond just spiritual leadership to every area of our life. In what areas of your life do you lead? Do you lead with the meekness of a Good Shepherd?
2. What shepherds do we commonly follow other than the Good Shepherd?

SERMON IN SUMMARY

This week, we looked at the familiar story of the Good Shepherd. There are a lot of bad shepherds in the world and they might not always look like what we'd expect. These shepherds steal, kill, and destroy whereas Jesus says he came "that they [the sheep] may have life and have it abundantly." According to John 10, what do we need in order to live abundantly?

Context

For the most part, we aren't a sheep-herding people. Most of us have never seen a shepherd with his flock. But Jesus' audience knew what it meant to be a good shepherd. Sheep were weak; but, the weaker the animals, the stronger the caretaker had to be to protect them. And at the same time, they had to be gentle. This gentle strength is what we know as meekness. Meekness is a power under control for the love of others. This is what Jesus was offering. And what he says the other leaders are lacking. Instead of the good shepherds, they are the thieves. The ones who trick and manipulate in order to steal the sheep away. Abuse of power is all too common in the church and throughout the world – in workplaces, politics, relationships. But abusing power is not Christian leadership. It isn't the way Jesus led. It is being conformed to the world instead of transformed by Christ.

Claim

Everyone hears a voice in their life and follows it. There is always one voice that has more control, that stands out above the rest. Sheep know the voice of their particular shepherd and answer the call. Even as Jesus says, "my sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." There is something that has a claim on our lives so that every morning we hear that voice, join up with our flock, and follow it. In John, Jesus tells the people "you're following bad shepherds." You are following the shepherds about whom Ezekiel warns. And today, those shepherds have an even greater reach through the means of technology.

Result

Where does Jesus' shepherding lead? Jesus' death that life might be given back to us is the result of his shepherding. And not just life but life abundant! On the cross, all the weight and the wounds of sin that we bear were put on Jesus. And in exchange, we received his life, his relationship with the Father.

The Gospel gives you the ability to ignore the destructive words of others because they don't touch the depth of your being, the new life given to you in Christ. With Jesus' Word, you have been changed. So, listen to his call and follow up that you might be changed.