



Matters of Life and Death

Sheep are a lot smarter than some people think. They recognize the voice of their particular shepherd and follow that voice alone. However, that is not the point of Jesus' teaching today. Because most of us don't raise sheep or know much about them, we don't realize that the situation described in the Gospel passage is a matter of life and death.

It's similar to the relationship between a military squad leader and the troops he leads, another life-and-death matter. In both, unquestioning obedience is required, and absolute trust in the other is presumed.

That's what Jesus is describing. He's suggesting: "Listen to me. Follow my lead. Trust in me. I want only what is good for you, so I will be your sure protection."

It sounds so easy, as parables and metaphors usually do. What does it mean to follow this Shepherd? In the first reading, Peter announces the answer in one word: "Repent!" There is that challenging word—the word

we might associate with Lent, not with Easter. If we do so, we miss the point of following the Shepherd, for to follow him means to be like him. It means: "Repent! Stop taking advantage of other people. Open your minds and hearts to newcomers. Respect those who observe different religious traditions. Help those less fortunate than you." All of this is captured in the final words of the Gospel reading: do what you can so that all "might have life and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). Clearly, that's smart.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- ★ On what path might the Shepherd be leading you?
- ★ In what area is he calling you to repent?

Assumption of Our Lady



May 3, 2020

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Diocese of Mackenzie- Fort Smith Yellowknife	Sunday Mass 11:00 AM		Facebook
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On May 1, Bishop Jon Hansen
consecrated our diocese to Mary

... in a special way call upon the protection of Mary, the Mother of the Church and consecrate ourselves, our diocese and our nation to her protection during this time of Pandemic. ...To be consecrated to Mary, then, is to be entrusting of that divine gift of maternal protection. We believe that Mary hears our prayers and she intercedes for us to her Son. Like any loving mother would, she showers us with her blessings and grace. Through Mary's constant care we are led in our weakness always closer to her Son whom she never ceases to extoll. We are in a time of great turmoil and hardship. With so many longing for help and desiring to see life get back to normal, the act of consecrating ourselves again to the care and protection of God through the Blessed Virgin Mary is our way of saying that, now more than ever, we need God's help and we want to be a part of God's plan for the world. We are saying that in the midst of Pandemic we want to grow in holiness and to be active participants in the building of the Kingdom. We will not sit by idly and wait for this to be over, but through the intercession of Mary and the help of God we will engage ourselves in bringing goodness and light to an otherwise bleak situation. With Mary's help we pray that these days of great social upheaval and change will be an opportunity for a new outlook of hope and joy be born in the hearts of all believers.

+Jon Hansen, C.Ss.R.

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Dear Padre,

How will it happen that Jesus will come again and lead us “through the gates”?

We have it from the best of authorities that the date of the world's end is hidden. Jesus said, “But of that day and hour no one knows... but the Father alone” (Matthew 24:36). In spite of Christ's admonition that the day of his Second Coming is known but to God, there have been countless false prophets who have confidently but incorrectly predicted a date for the end of the world. Most of these foolish forecasters based their claims on misinterpretations of the Book of Revelation.

The main purpose of the Book of Revelation is to assure us that God's power will prevail. In the ongoing struggle between good and evil, there are times when evil seems to have the upper hand. No matter. Evil will be conquered and God's rule will extend over all creation.

The world might end tomorrow, or next year, or in five billion years. Jesus tells us we can't know for sure. We are sure, however, that this world will pass away. And for each one of us the world will end at the moment of death. What matters is that we should always be ready to meet Christ.

And we shall be ready if we follow Christ, our Shepherd, whom we meet in today's Gospel. Jesus leads us safely through this life by his teaching, his example, and his grace.

—Fr. Oscar Lukefahr, CM
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



A WORD FROM Pope Francis

We should never forget: the Church is not a static reality, inert, an end in herself, but is on a continual journey through history, towards that ultimate and marvelous end that is the kingdom of heaven, of which the Church on earth is the seed and the beginning.

—GENERAL AUDIENCE, NOVEMBER 26, 2014

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Calendar

Monday MAY 4 Easter Weekday Acts 11:1–18 Jn 10:11–18
Tuesday MAY 5 Easter Weekday Acts 11:19–26 Jn 10:22–30
Wednesday MAY 6 Easter Weekday Acts 12:24—13:5a Jn 12:44–50
Thursday MAY 7 Easter Weekday Acts 13:13–25 Jn 13:16–20
Friday MAY 8 Easter Weekday Acts 13:26–33 Jn 14:1–6
Saturday MAY 9 Easter Weekday Acts 13:44–52 Jn 14:7–14
Sunday MAY 10 Fifth Sunday of Easter Acts 6:1–7 1 Pt 2:4–9 Jn 14:1–12