

## Good Shepherd Sunday May 15, 2011 "That's The Point" John 10

"I just don't get it""What's the point?""What's going on?" There are times in life when we just don't get what's going on around us. I'm sure people living in our Southern states are saying that after the storms hit their area. In our Gospel lesson from John 10, Jesus is talking about sheep and the shepherd, something they should be familiar with at Jesus' time, but they just don't get it. Even in church, we often don't get the point. Here are some church bulletin bloopers from Dear Abby over the years where people just don't get it. For instance;

"The Low Self-Esteem group meets tonight. Please use the back door."

"Due to the Pastor's illness, our healing service is cancelled"

"This being Easter, one of our Sunday School teachers will lay an egg on the altar." "Our Wednesday topic will be "What is Hell?" Come early and hear our choir practice."

It's easy to get confused and not see the real point. Two men were asked to read the Psalm for a class. The first was a famous orator with a booming voice and the second a friend of his, an old Christian man. The orator got done speaking the Psalm and people cheered wanting an encore. The old man read it next and there was silence as people meditated and prayed. The orator got up and explained that he knew the Psalm, but his old friend knew the Shepherd. The point of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm is that we have a Good Shepherd Who loves us, not that we are lost sheep.

Pointing to the Good Shepherd keeps His sheep on the right path in life, as we listen only to the voice of the Good Shepherd, Jesus. Sad to say, because of our sinful pride, we often love the sound of our own voice first when we don't know what's going on. "I think""I want""I'm gonna" start our journey often to a dead end. Then we turn to another shepherd; the world around us. The world has advice such as "Take care of #1""Gather more stuff and forget about debt""Whatever makes you happy is all that matters." This advice leads only to wolves and bears ready to eat up lost sheep.

God sent His Son Jesus to be our Good Shepherd in this life and for life eternal. Whether we face the storms of life, family problems, loss of job, even if we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, He is with us. He leads us through to a new life of hope and joy. Why is worship, Bible Study, prayer, Baptism, Holy Communion so important? These are places we hear His voice. He calls us by name. He has our names etched into the palms of His hands. He helps us understand the ups and downs of life. Faith in Jesus, the Only Shepherd to die for His sheep leads us to our home in heaven and to faithfully serve Him in this life too.

There is a church in San Francisco that feeds meals to those in need. As you walk into the room, there's a sign that says "CARITATE DEI" over the door. One day a young man recently released from prison came to eat. He asked, "Now do we have to do chores on our knees?" No! "Do we have to listen to a sermon?" No! "Is there a lecture on leading a good life?" No! "Then what's the

gimmick?" "What does that sign mean?" he asked. It means; OUT OF LOVE FOR GOD.

That's the point of our Christian life. We don't tell God how great our mountains are, we tell our

mountains how great our God is! The point is that God first loved us and sent Jesus to be our

Good Shepherd. When we understand that faith in Jesus is the point of it all, then you know that

God Is Good.. .All The Time. .amen, pastor matthews