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WEEKLY LETTER

25 April 2021

John 10.11-18

Fourth Sunday of Easter

The goodness and gladness of the Gospel message is abundantly clear in the gospel of John, in which Jesus speaks of himself as 'The Bread of life', 'The Light of the World' and in today's passage as, 'The Good Shepherd'. Here Jesus is speaking to those who hunger for truth and meaning, to those who know they walk in darkness, and to those who have gone astray like lost sheep.

In a rather silly romantic way I like the image of The Good Shepherd, though it often hasn't meant much to me. Why? I am quite accustomed to doing it my way, as I've tried pretty hard to be self-sufficient. This of course is a not so subtle form of pride. For much of life I have made myself overcome the usual obstacles and apparently survived the bigger ones, so I have thought (though not consciously, I don't think), why do I need the Good Shepherd, because I don't feel lost! Like many people I am part of an affluent culture, and so easily feel, 'I'm alright Jack'.

The simple truth is I often need an honest dose of self-reflection, and so sincerely recognise my many imperfections and contradictions, where actions do not correspond with what I say. Within my life there is a false ambition, selfishness, a desire to persuade myself I'm right, and in control. Plus the desire to be upbeat rather than honest, coupled with a needy ego, and perhaps the silliest of them all, the desire to be the kind of person I admire.

It may also be true for you, for when I am more honest about my limitations I look to God (not as a crutch or as a last resort!) but because it helps us to understand our reliance on God. When I get off my high horse and more aware of my imperfection, we are more able to express our genuine humility and so more naturally recognise our ultimate dependence on God.

Being more aware of our human frailties and limitations (sometimes!) helps us to appreciate the love that Jesus has for us. The simple fact is that God has always worked with people's contradictions and imperfections. And perhaps, this truth about our humanity is quite a good message to carry in our hearts right through to the end?

Stephen

Church News

Christian Aid Quiz

We will be holding a quiz during Christian Aid week.

Sunday Morning Worship will be led by Rev David Salsbury

The Bible Reading is : Acts 4.1-12

Cycle of Prayer for Swansea Region – we will pray for Tabernacle, Mumbles

Prayers for Every Household - Manselton Road 125 – 185 (odd numbers)

