

April 17,2016 4th Sunday of Easter

The Father and I are One!

Acts 13: 14, 43-52

Psalms 100:1-3,5

Revelation 7:9, 14b-17

John 10:27-30

Paul and Barnabus entered the synagogue in Antioch and urged the listeners to remain faithful to the grace of God. The Jews saw the large crowds of Gentiles that were gathering and grew envious so they incited the women and leading men of the town to evict them. Paul and Barnabus simply shook the dust from their feet against them and left. The disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

The Psalmist sings joyfully to the Lord and serves with gladness. He knows the Lord is God and made us, and we are his people, the sheep of his flock. God tends to our needs, is good, and his kindness and faithfulness endure forever.

John saw, in his vision, a great multitude of people before the throne. These are identified as the ones who survived the time of great distress and they worship the living God day and night. The Lamb leads them to springs of life-giving water and will wipe away their every tear.

Jesus tells us that the faithful are given to him by the Father. They recognize his voice, follow him, and will never perish because they are given eternal life. It is the enemies of Jesus who cannot understand that his divine works indicate that he and the Father are one.

**The Father has given the faithful
to the care of his Son,
And we are guided to eternal life by the Holy Spirit.**

In the cities and towns the shepherds would often pen their sheep together in large fenced-in areas. In the morning they would simply call their sheep who would recognize their voices and immediately follow. And so it is for us who have the gift of grace to recognize the Lord's voice in the noise of chaotic worldly values. We come to realize that there is something beckoning us, and that this something is someone, and that this someone is the Lord. The call is to follow Jesus' footsteps not really knowing where we are being led but having the faith to realize the path leads to true happiness and eternal life.



In Genesis life is revealed as the good and glorious work of the Creator. Jesus was always concerning himself with the topic of life and it had a consuming purpose with him.

He seeks to lead us to spiritual springs of life-giving water;

to magnify our faith that it may spring to life as the tiny mustard seed;

to understand as did Peter when he said, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."(John 6:68) ;

to say with Paul, "For to me life is Christ" Phil 1:21).

Jesus says on numerous occasions that "whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." (Matt 16:25, Luke 9:24, Luke 17:33) Jesus is advocating a letting go of worldly life as we know it so that the egocentric aspects of our ways are replaced with a creative bursting of the spiritual seed nourished by living -water.

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