

Year C - 4th Sunday of Easter

John 10:27-30

I am the gate of the sheepfold.



Jesus said to his disciples:

"My sheep know my voice, and I know them.

They follow me, and I give them eternal life, so that they will never be lost.

No one can snatch them out of my hand.

My Father gave them to me, and he is greater than all others.

No one can snatch them from his hands, and I am one with the Father."



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We can recognise the voices of those we know well



Message

In the bible, Jesus often uses the example of him as a shepherd and the people as his sheep. For the people who lived during the bible this was a great example, everyone knew a shepherd and how they cared for their sheep.

But today we don't see shepherds anymore, so for us to understand this example it's important we learn more about shepherds and sheep.

A shepherds job was to look after to the sheep, to protect them from predators like wolves and foxes and to keep them from wandering off. Not all sheep lived in paddocks with fences to keep them closed in. Sometimes they would stay in a group with the other sheep close to the shepherd. But if one sheep was to start to wander away away, the shepherd would call it back before it was lost.

The sheep who are around the shepherd all day every day would recognise the shepherds voice and come back to them once they were called.

Jesus uses this story as a way to explain to us how the closer we are to Jesus the more we can recognise his voice in our lives.

Have you ever been in a busy area, like the shops or at a park and called out to your mum and dad? And even though there are lots of mums and dads around they here your voice and recognise you.

Yet when we hear the voice of Jesus in our lives, it's not a voice we hear through our ears, its what we hear in our hearts.

The closer we are to Jesus the more we can be sure that it's Jesus' voice we recognise in our hearts.

Discussion questions

- Can you think of a time when you have recognised the voice of someone else before you see them? What helped you recognise them?
- What are things we can do to help recognise when Jesus speaks to us?

