

Sunday Reflection

- ◆ **First Reading:** *Acts 4:8-12*
- ◆ **Second Reading:** *1 John 3:1-2*
- ◆ **Gospel:** *John 10: 11-18*

.....To-day is referred to as “Good Shepherd Sunday” ; In this Gospel reading Jesus presents himself as the Good Shepherd, but in what context?

Shepherding is still a job to be done in many parts of the world, a sheep farmer could give you all the information ; basically it’s about protecting the sheep from killer predators such as wolves and wild dogs ;

If you observe sheep in their outdoor habitat, you’ll notice how they are inclined to stray individually or in small groups, that’s when the predator can go in for a kill, but if the shepherd can predict a menacing presence not far from the flock, then he goes out to do his job which is to protect the sheep from harm ;

Our Good Shepherd, Jesus the Saviour, is the Shepherd of our soul, but there’s only one condition on our behalf ; you and I must allow the lord to be the Shepherd of our soul ; Do you ask the Divine Shepherd to protect you from all harm and division? Why do I say “division”? because in this Gospel reading Jesus speaks about divisions among the flock, he says

“and there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold, these I have to lead as well” ; in other words no-one is excluded from the vineyard of the Lord ; no-one is excluded from the Divine Plan of Salvation ; the Divine Shepherd does not exclude anyone from the sacred vineyard, everyone is included ; we humans, like ordinary sheep, we go astray on our pilgrim journey when we drift away from the Divine Shepherd ; we get locked into distractions, worldliness and personal anxieties ;

also In to-day's world we have to deal with so much division out there, look at what happened last weekend, the premier league was thrown into disarray with 12 major european clubs wanting to branch off to form their own superior league ; the divisions in American society are still painfully obvious ; here in our own society there are divisions, the wealth of this rich nation is still not evenly divided with over 14 million people who live in poverty ; during the public ministry of Jesus, there were divisions among his followers to the point of leaving him, they didn't agree with his doctrine on the living bread which had come down from Heaven **"After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him (John 6 : 66)"** You and I may also freely choose to abandon the love and guidance of the Good Shepherd, and end up divided internally, then WHO do we turn to? WHO do we choose to be the shepherd to guide us thru' our journey-of-life and on to Eternity? In a world of weak leadership from all quarters.. in a very divided society, and in the midst of complicated dangerous technology under the guise of "we'll show you how to live your life and how to spend your money"...in the midst of all that and a lot more, we need shepherding, we need spiritual guidance and proper management of our lives ; Ultimately, there's only ONE shepherd, the Shepherd of our souls ; He says it himself **"I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD, I KNOW MY OWN AND MY OWN KNOW ME.....AND I LAY DOWN MY LIFE FOR MY SHEEP....**now there's an offer we can't refuse, but the big question is ARE YOU and I willing to allow this good heavenly Shepherd to be the shepherd of our soul and to be sure of his protection in a fast-moving divided society ?

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