

A Shepherd's Sacrifice"
John 10:1-10

May 7, 2017
4th Sunday of EASTER

THE BIG IDEA: "Jesus Gives Us Abundant Life!"

"The Lord is my shepherd. I lack nothing." Psalm 23:1

INTRODUCTION "Theology of Enough"

Rev. Diane Blum tells of a visiting professor from a developing nation who asked, "What would happen if we lived into a theology of enough?" Since coming to the United States, he had noticed that American Christians were often infected with the economically driven theology of wanting more. Shepherd King David sings joyfully that his God supplies all he needs. He is not in want, even if he holds a job on the bottom of the career ladder, like tending sheep. This God, like an effective shepherd, provides tender care and enough.

I. The Voice Of Abundant Life. (John 10:1-10)

"... the sheep listen to [the shepherd's] voice." vs. 3

- Jesus' sheep LISTEN and RECOGNIZE.
- Jesus' sheep TRUST and RESPOND.
- Jesus' "sheep" FOLLOW and REJOICE.

II. The Community Of Abundant Life. (Acts 2:42-47)

"They demonstrated God's goodness to everyone." vs. 47

- Jesus' sheep PRAY.
- Jesus' sheep SHARE.
- Jesus' sheep PRAISE.

III. The ENDURANCE of Abundant Life (1 Peter 2:19-25)

"Now, it is commendable if, because of one's understanding of God, someone should endure pain through suffering unjustly." vs. 19

- Jesus' sheep do not DECEIVE.
- Jesus' sheep do not INSULT.
- Jesus' sheep do not THREATEN REVENGE.

CONCLUSION

"God's Sabbath"

God's sabbath involves more than simply stopping the work of our week. The joyful sharing of food, drink, and fellowship characterizes sabbath. Abundance is more than counting the places at the table. It is about sharing what we do have and discovering a deeper form of abundance and delight.

We are invited to the Lord's banquet of bountiful grace and nourishment experienced in real, living human community. We will find ourselves positioned to break bread in the presence of someone we believe to be our adversary. And Jesus, our good shepherd, leads the way to transforming love by reminding us that love for our enemies will be one of the ways we are recognized as His beloved flock.