

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 13:14. 43-52 Apoc 7:9. 14-17 John 10:27-30

On this Good shepherd Sunday let us listen to the Good Shepherd himself and hear what he has to say about his sheep.

Here is what he says: ***'My sheep hear my voice'***.

- Not **"CAN"** hear my voice.
- Not **"SHOULD"** hear my voice, but ***'My sheep HEAR my voice'***.

Therefore, only those who are his sheep do hear his voice

NB: Of course Jesus is not referring to the word sheep in any ***derogatory manner***.

He is only putting his finger on those who are his sheep, that ***they know their master's voice*** and follow that voice in trust.

It also means that they instinctively **fear other voices**, fleeing from them.

HEARING GOD'S VOICE TODAY

It is being put to us that God is constantly transmitting His voice to His sheep.

But in the world we live today,

Q: Are we turned on?

Q: Not only that, are we tuned in?

NB: God's voice is there in the airwaves: I could hear it if I tuned in!

REASONS WHY WE DO NOT HEAR

Let's look closely to the reasons why we do not hear the shepherd's voice.

- a) Sometimes we don't hear his voice because we are in the wrong room which means not ceasing the opportunity to be in the right place,
Or else our radio is tuned in to something else.
In other words we don't hear his voice because we are busy doing something else.

- b) Some times as we all know, God speaks to us in a still, small voice – maybe our hectic daily lives prevent us from hearing God's voice.

Maybe one solution is to deliberately withdraw from our hectic life and go there where we can hear that still, small voice.

- c) Sometimes, unfortunately many people mistake God's voice for what is really their own thoughts.

We often miss God's voice in listening to our desires.

- d) Let's be honest sometimes we don't want to hear His voice.

- We think we already know the answer we might not want to face up to something.
 - Like someone not going to the doctor because he'll only confirm what we don't want to know.

"My sheep hear my voice" also says something about prayer.

Prayer is not all about winning or getting what we want.

It's about tuning our hearts and minds to God, no matter what life throws at us.

Across today's world, there'll be tragedy, triumph, joy, pain, birth and bereavement.

These are the peak moments God puts in our life to hears his voice

Hearing God's voice in all these, or praying about them will not change these things - it will change how we face them.

We shall face them with a certain degree of wisdom and understanding.

We shall be enabled to see a bigger and richer picture.

But this can only happen if we are tuned in to the shepherd's voice.

"My shepherd, hear my voice"