

John 10:11-18 Quiz

This 4th Sunday of Easter is known also as Good Shepherd Sunday. We meet Jesus as our shepherd and ourselves as the sheep of his flock. The Collect for today from The Book of Common Prayer reads: "O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name and follow where he leads."

Christ our Shepherd speaks to us. He does not only speak, but calls each of us by our name. Our response is to hear him, to recognize his voice, and to follow where he leads. Jesus knows who we are, what we need, and the person we are coming to be. But a further step is necessary. It is necessary that we _____. Even the voice of Jesus goes unheard unless something within us makes the choice to listen.

The art of listening is not easy. Yet it is the _____ of discipleship. Like all true listening, listening to the Shepherd comes at a cost. But while listening to other people may sometimes drain us — it is our gift to them — listening to the Shepherd always leads to our improvement. Listening is also hard because a lot of our society is set up to keep us from hearing deep truths.

Something else that makes listening hard is that what we hear is usually a blend: the voice of the Shepherd mixed with lesser voices. St. Paul puts it this way: the _____ comes to us in clay pots. We need to distinguish the one from the other, and not confuse the pot with the treasure.

Yes, listening is hard. It takes practice. But the saving grace is the Shepherd never stops calling us. There is no shortage of messages that come from him, and each one we are to hear is addressed to us by name. There is no situation where he does not speak. What we are called to do in Christian worship is to listen to the Shepherd's voice. We hear that voice, or at least have an opportunity to hear it, through scriptures and sermons and the Lord's Supper, in moments of silence and through the sound of music, through the words of familiar prayers and new prayers.

We hear that voice, or at least can hear it, when we worship together, but something more is involved: we are here to be trained. Trained to _____

the Shepherd's voice when he speaks during the other hours of the week, and in situations where we may be surprised to find him. The Shepherd is never absent from any place — no matter where it is.

Through it all, the Shepherd speaks, calling us and those with us out of death and into life.

A. Foundation

B. Treasure

C. Listen

D. Recognize