



Reflection on the Scriptures of the Day
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Monday of the Fourth Week of Easter

"If then God gave them the same gift, he gave to us when we came to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to be able to hinder God?" With these words Peter convinces the community that God calls even the Gentiles. Who were the Gentiles? Anyone who did not believe in the one true God. The Jewish people, "The Chosen People," believed that God only had an interest in them and wanted them to enjoy the Kingdom and all its benefits. The Jewish people prohibited anyone from entering their "country club." However, God had other ideas and Jesus came along to tell them that all are welcome in the Kingdom of God.

Jesus uses the analogy of the good shepherd to make this point. In today's Gospel Jesus says that he is The Good Shepherd and His sheep know him and He knows them. And why wouldn't He? He is God and He created them, He loves them, and He cares for them. Our God has an intimate relationship with His people, Jew and Gentile. In fact, anyone who hears His voice and follows The Good Shepherd is a member of His sheepfold.

Isn't it wonderful to know that Jesus, who laid down His life, brought about salvation for everyone? We are saved by the actions of The Good Shepherd. We then become the sheep and Jesus is the Shepherd. Do we hear His voice calling us? Can we recognize the voice of the Shepherd, or are we listening to someone else?

Our God is an awesome God. He has gifted everyone with the gift of His Spirit and who are we to stifle this gift? We have become Light to the world. Let us use our Gift well and not let it be hidden.