

The Two are One

Fourth Week of Easter ~ April 17, 2016 ~ John 10:27-30

The gospel for this 4th week of Easter is a short and reassuring message of Jesus' love for his people and his oneness with the Father. "My sheep hear my voice. I know them and they follow me." In the pastoral activity of ancient Israel, the tending of sheep was a significant livelihood that required an undying devotion of shepherd to flock. Jesus uses this motif to emphasize the notion that he is the one true shepherd, the divine instrument of God, reinforcing that "The Father and I are one."

The question that I have for this week is... Do I believe that Jesus is God? I think it is important for us to ask ourselves this question occasionally. It is important because it is the foundational basis of our Catholic faith and identity. Everything we proclaim, teach and worship is based on this idea that Jesus is one with God, the Divine Creator.

Jesus didn't come to earth to "become God." Jesus did not somehow enter into human life as a human and then one day rise as a super divine being. Jesus is God! He always has been God. He always will be God.

During our Holy Thursday Mass, during the washing of the feet, we sing the song, *As I Have Done For You*, by Dan Schutte. The refrain states, "I, your Lord and Master, now become your servant, I who made the moon and stars will kneel to wash your feet." On this very holy night, we proclaim that God who has created the stars, earth, sun and moon actually washes our feet, teaching us how to live, how to be human in a divine way. The refrain goes on to state, "This is my commandment: to love as I have loved you. Kneel to wash each other's feet as I have done for you."

If we live in Christ, then just as Christ is God, we then are Christ to others. Jesus says, "My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one can take them out of the Father's hand." Just as a shepherd tends his sheep caring for each and every one, Jesus cares for us and our needs. Jesus makes the promise, "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish."

On our part, we are called to be Christ to others. We can do this because we know that there is no separation from us and Christ. He is our divine Creator, protector, mentor and Savior. We can trust that the two are one.

Happy Easter,


Sue Schettler