

## Day Thirty Eight

### Season of Eastertide

Sunday, 3 May 2020

**Reading: Acts 2:42-47, Psalm 23, 1 Peter 2: 19-25 Gospel Reading: John 10: 1-10**

Hallelujah! Christ is Risen

He is Risen indeed. Hallelujah

The Lord be with you.....

Many years ago the great king Henry VIII of England, separated himself from the Roman Catholic Church. While in my Anglican Studies class the lecturer captivated me by the interesting story of how the Church of England broke away under the papacy. Then he mentioned the surname Boleyn and I was enthralled because I had watched a movie about these two Boleyn sisters. Henry VIII divorced Catherine of Aragon and soon after her remarried Anne Boleyn. It was after his marriage to the Boleyn maiden that he made himself supreme head of the Church of England in 1534.

This Church would soon find herself on many continents of the world. Like the story of Henry VIII, Martin Luther and John Calvin, many persons over the centuries have found their own churches either based on more knowledgeable facts to base their worship on or find a stricter religious way of life. Some feel that God has spoken to them to leave a current denomination and rightly so, perhaps their talents were really needed somewhere else. Perhaps their doctrine and devotion is the right way to worship.

Many persons have left their home churches because they felt the church was too strict, too judgemental, not charismatic enough, not many powerful prayers going out or perhaps the ministers were not inclusive or open to change. Perhaps they have wanted to become ministers themselves and never received the opportunity and so they left, starting their own churches or joining a church that is more appropriate to them or suits their needs best.

Personally I know many of us do not have the same spirituality and therefore we are well within our right to serve in a church that best suits our spiritual needs.

However, with so many churches and so many voices claiming that they know Jesus best, how many of the sheep really know the voice of the Shepherd?

Jesus in his expression towards the Pharisees in our Gospel passage tells them those who do not enter the sheepfold by the gate is a thief and a bandit. The crux of this specific dialogue is not only the emphasis laid on anyone who would want to enter the sheepfold

by any other means than through the gate but specifically the sheep knowing the voice of their Shepherd.

I see so many people leaving their churches and not worshipping the Shepherd but worshipping the pastor, priest or minister of that specific denomination. Remember the persons who under some pastors ate grass, hair and were sprayed with DOOM! Because their pastor told them to do so! One of the many examples. Prophets telling people the world would end in the year 2000. Well well, we have made it to the year 2020.

We normally get to know people by spending time with them, communicating with them, same applies with Jesus. When we communicate with Jesus, we know His voice. When we read what He taught, we know His voice. When we act like He once did, we know His voice. There is an alliance built between the two and no fraudster would be able to sever those ties. Who are we listening to?

How do we discern this voice? How do we as sheep, listen to the Shepherd? We simply read the New Testament Gospels, what He taught and we simply do what He did and we will easily discern the Voice of the Shepherd. If it's not a Biblical model of what Christ would say or do, it probably isn't from God.

**“Father, let me hold Thy hand, and like a child walk with Thee down all my days, secure in Thy love and strength.”**

**Thomas à Kempis**