

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily
Sunday, May 8, 2022
4th Sunday of Easter
Cycle C

A man in Australia was arrested and charged with stealing a sheep. But he protested that he owned the sheep and that it had been missing for many days. When the case went to court, the judge did not know how to decide the matter.

Finally, he asked that the sheep be brought into the courtroom. Then he ordered the plaintiff, the man who had accused the man of stealing his sheep, to step outside and call the animal. The sheep made no response except to raise its head and look frightened. The judge then instructed the defendant to go to the courtyard and call the sheep. When the accused man began to make his distinctive call, the sheep ran toward the door and his voice. It was obvious that the sheep recognized the familiar voice of his master. "His sheep knows him," said the judge. "Case dismissed!"

Today is Good Shepherd Sunday. Jesus describes three qualities of his sheep:

1. They hear his voice;
2. Jesus knows them;
3. They follow Jesus.

These qualities could only be achieved with a constant engagement with our Good Shepherd. You can judge whether a person is a disciple of the Lord by how well he or she follows Jesus.

Many of us want the benefits of belonging to Christ's flock, to be known completely and intimately by God, without the responsibility of listening to Christ and following him faithfully in our daily life. We want to know him as our Savior without having him as our Master. "My sheep hear my voice; I know them and they follow me."

The big question we need to ask ourselves is:

Do we really hear the voice of the Good Shepherd? There are so many voices in our world today that hinders us to truly listen to God's voice. That is why we need to take time to listen attentively to the voice of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, in our lives.

Good Shepherd Sunday is not just our way of celebrating that Jesus is our Good Shepherd. It should also be our way of renewing our commitment to hear the Good Shepherd's voice and follow him. Thus, we commit ourselves to listening to and following the voice of humble service and selfless love, rather than the voice of hidden agenda and selfish interests. If we really hear the voice of the Good Shepherd, it will radically change our lives and our way of living.

- It will constantly renew our hearts and our way of loving.
- It will definitely improve our vision and our way of seeing things.
- It will have a deep impact on our way of acting and behaving and our way of performing our duties and responsibilities.

In other words, it will certainly lead us and empower us to follow Jesus more closely and more faithfully. "My sheep hear my voice; I know them and they follow me."