

TRANSCRIPT

04-25-21 PASTOR DAVE'S SERMON: "JESUS KNOWS YOUR NAME."

>> Pastor Dave: IT IS SO GOOD, SO GOOD TO BE IN THE LORD'S HOUSE.

IT IS SO GOOD TO BE GATHERED WITH YOU.

IT IS SO GOOD TO SING THE PRAISES OF GOD.

IT IS SO GOOD TO BE RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT, AND I'M SO GLAD THAT WE'RE TOGETHER HERE AT THIS TIME, AT THIS PLACE, FOR THIS GOOD SHEPHERD'S SUNDAY.

LET'S PRAY: HEAVENLY FATHER, MAY THE WORDS OF MY LIPS AND THE MEDITATIONS OF OUR HEARTS BE PLEASING UNTO THEE, OUR LORD, OUR GOD, OUR ROCK, AND OUR SALVATION. AMEN.

WELL, TODAY IS GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY.

WE DIDN'T DO THE 23rd PSALM, THOUGH.

I DON'T KNOW WHY I DIDN'T HAVE THAT INCLUDED.

IT WOULD SEEM THAT THAT WOULD BE SOMETHING THAT IS VERY IMPORTANT.

HOW MANY OF YOU KNOW THE 23rd PSALM?

HOW DOES IT START OFF?

>> THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD.

>> Pastor Dave: THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD.

DOES IT MEAN YOU DON'T WANT HIM AS HIS YOUR SHEPHERD?

IT MEANS THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD.

HE HAS GIVEN ME EVERYTHING I NEED.

I DON'T WANT ANYTHING ELSE.

HE HAS SUPPLIED EVERYTHING.

WE'RE ALL FAMILIAR WITH THAT.

I DON'T THINK MANY OF US -- ANYBODY FAMILIAR WITH SHEEP-HERDING?

ANY OF YOU EVER DONE ANY OF THAT?

ANY COWBOYS HERE?

YOU KNOW -- THE WAY THEY DID IT IN PALESTINE IS VERY DIFFERENT THAN THE WAY THEY DO IT IN JERUSALEM.

THE WAY THEY DO IT IN PALESTINE.

THE WAY WE DO IT HERE, WE GET SHEEP DOGS AND THEY DRIVE THEM.

OR WE GET AUTOMOBILES AND VEHICLES, AND WE DRIVE THE SHEEP OUT IN FRONT OF US.

THAT'S NOT THE WAY IT IS DONE IN PALESTINE.

THE WAY IT IS DONE IN PALESTINE IS THE SHEPHERD CALLS THE SHEEP, THE SHEEP KNOW HIS VOICE, AND THE SHEEP FOLLOW HIM.

AND HE TAKES THEM OUT TO GREEN PASTURES.

HE TAKES THEM OUT TO A PLACE WHERE THEY CAN FIND EVERYTHING THAT THEY NEED TO SURVIVE WELL.

IN THE VERSE RIGHT DIRECTLY BEFORE OUR READING FOR THE GOSPEL TODAY, JESUS SAYS:

"THE ENEMY COMES TO KILL, STEAL, AND DESTROY, BUT I COME THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE LIFE AND HAVE IT IN ABUNDANCE."

HOW MANY OF YOU KNOW THERE ARE ENEMIES WHO WANT TO KILL, STEAL, AND DESTROY THAT ARE OUT THERE?

YOU GUYS RECOGNIZE THAT?

IT IS ALL AROUND US.

IT HAPPENS ALL OF THE TIME. BUT WE HAVE A GOOD SHEPHERD THAT LEADS US AWAY FROM THAT DANGER; IN FACT, HE LAYS DOWN HIS LIFE FOR US.

SO THE WAY THAT THEY DO IT IN PALESTINE IS THE GOOD SHEPHERD WOULD LEAD THE SHEEP OUT, TAKE THEM INTO PASTURE.

AND THEN WHEN IT CAME TIME FOR THEM TO BE IN FOR THE EVENING, HE WOULD CONSTRUCT A SHELTER AROUND THEM, SO NOTHING COULD GET INTO IT AND THE SHEEP COULDN'T GET OUT.

AND THEN HE WOULD LAY DOWN AT THE DOOR.

HE WOULD LAY HIS BODY ACROSS THE DOOR, SO THAT THE SHEEP WOULDN'T GET OUT AND NOTHING COULD COME IN TO GET THEM.

IN FACT, JESUS SAYS: "I AM THE SHEEP GATE."

NOW, IS JESUS THE SHEEP GATE?

NO, NOT IN THE SENSE HE IS LIKE AN OPENING IN A THING.

BUT HE IS THE ACCESS THAT WE HAVE TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

THE WRITER HERE, JOHN, IS HE TALKING ABOUT SHEEP OR IS HE TALKING ABOUT YOU?

HE IS TALKING ABOUT YOU, RIGHT?

YOU GUYS WITH ME?

GOOD.

HE IS TALKING ABOUT YOU.

HE IS NOT TALKING ABOUT THE SHEEP.

WE ARE THE SHEEP.

THERE IS A SONG I SANG GROWING UP IN IOWA...

¶ I JUST WANT TO BE A SHEEP ¶

¶ I JUST WANT TO BE A SHEEP ¶

¶ BAH, BAH, BAH ¶

¶ I PRAY THE LORD MY SOUL TO KEEP ¶

>> I JUST WANT TO BE A SHEEP.

>> Pastor Dave: HEY, THANK YOU.

ANYBODY SING THAT SONG BEFORE?

OH, GOOD, ONE PERSON.

ONE PERSON IN ALL OF THE CONGREGATIONS I'VE EVER SERVED HAS HEARD THAT SONG BEFORE, BUT YET I'M A GLUTEN FOR PUNISHMENT.

AND I SING IT FOR YOU.

SO JESUS IS THE SHEEP GATE.

HE IS THE ACCESS THAT WE HAVE INTO THE SHEEP FOLD.

THIS IS REALLY GOOD NEWS.

NOW, WHAT CAN I TELL YOU ABOUT GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY?

YOU GUYS HAVE HEARD HUNDREDS OF SERMONS ON GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY, RIGHT?

SO WHAT CAN I DO THAT IS DIFFERENT?

SHOULD I JUST SAY AMEN AND SIT DOWN AND LET'S GO HAVE SOME DOUGHNUTS?

NO.

IF I WAS GOING TO TELL YOU SOMETHING NEW, IT PROBABLY WOULD BE COMING FROM ME.

IF IT WAS COMING FROM ME, IT WOULDN'T BE WORTH YOU LISTENING TO.

WHAT I NEED TO DO IS STICK TO THE WORD OF GOD.
MY JOB UP HERE IS TO REMIND YOU OF THE THINGS THAT GOD HAS PROMISED, THE THINGS THAT GOD HAS SAID.
WHAT GOD HAS SAID IS THAT HE IS OUR GOOD SHEPHERD.
SO THIS -- USUALLY WE HAVE THIS VERSE, WE MEMORIZE IT, AND EVEN PEOPLE WHO DON'T KNOW WHAT A SHEPHERD IS MIGHT HAVE A PICTURE OF JESUS WITH A SHEEP ON HIS SHOULDER OR JESUS IN THE FLOCK, WE ALL HAVE THAT KIND OF THING GOING ON.
AND WE WANT THE 23rd PSALM READ AT OUR FUNERAL.
BUT JESUS WASN'T SPEAKING IN THE 10th CHAPTER OF PSALM TO A CHILDREN'S SERMON, TALKING ABOUT I JUST WANT TO BE A SHEEP.
HE WAS TALKING TO A CROWD, SPECIFICALLY SINGLING OUT THE PHARISEES.
SO LET'S GET THIS SETTING RIGHT AS WE GO ON, AND THE ANTAGONISM AND THE CONFRONTATION THAT JESUS WAS HAVING WITH THE PHARISEES.
IN JOHN 9, IT STARTS OUT TALKING ABOUT A MAN WHO WAS BORN BLIND.
BORN BLIND.
HE ENCOUNTERS JESUS, AND JESUS PUTS SOME MUD IN HIS EYES, HAS HIM GOING TO THE POOL OF SALOM, HE WASHES THEM OUT AND HE CAN SEE.
EVERYBODY IS AMAZED.
NO ONE IN ALL OF ISRAEL HAS EVER HEARD OF A PERSON BEING BORN BLIND GIVEN HIS SIGHT.
SO THE PHARISEES HEAR ABOUT IT.
THEY CALL THIS YOUNG MAN INTO THEIR LITTLE OFFICE, AND THEY SAY, WHAT IS GOING ON? WHO DID THIS TO YOU?
WELL, THIS GUY NAMED JESUS.
WHEN DID HE DO IT?
TODAY -- IT HAPPENED TO BE A SABBATH.
SO THE PHARISEES SAY, NO MAN OF GOD WOULD EVER DO ANY WORK ON A SABBATH.
THIS GUY CANNOT BE FROM GOD.
WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY ABOUT HIM?
I DON'T KNOW.
I WAS BLIND AND NOW I SEE, SO HE MUST BE A PROPHET.
SO THEY CALL THIS GUY'S PARENTS IN.
IS THIS YOUR SON?
YES.
WAS HE BORN BLIND?
YES.
HOW DID HE GET HIS SIGHT?
THEY KNEW THE JEWS WERE GOING TO BE THROWING ANYBODY OUT WHO GAVE KUDOS TO JESUS.
SO THEY GO, HE IS OF AGE, ASK HIM YOURSELF.
THEY GOT OUT OF THE WAY OF THAT ONE.
THEY ASKED HIM AGAIN.
AND HE SAID, WHY DO YOU KEEP ASKING ME?
DO YOU WANT TO BE HIS DISCIPLES?
AND THEY WERE SO ANGRY, AND THEY SAID, WHOA, WHOA, WE'RE DISCIPLES OF MOSES.

AS OF THIS FELLOW, WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE HE IS FROM.
THE MAN WHO WAS BORN BLIND SAID, ISN'T THAT AMAZING.
HERE IS A GUY WHO OPENS THE EYES OF SOMEONE WHO WAS BORN BLIND, AND THAT CAN ONLY COME FROM GOD, AND YOU RELIGIOUS LEADERS DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE HE IS FROM?
AND THEY THREW HIM OUT, THREW HIM OUT OF THE CHURCH.
SO JESUS STARTED TELLING THIS STORY ABOUT HOW HE IS THE GOOD SHEPHERD.
AND HE IS COMPARING THE PHARISEES TO THE HIRED HAND.
ARE WE TOGETHER ON THIS NOW?
I CAN START IN ON THE TEXT THAT WE HAVE.
JESUS -- I TALKED ABOUT THE SHEEP GATE.
I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD, VERSE 11.
THEN HE COMPARES AND CONTRASTS HIMSELF TO THE HIRED HANDS.
THE HIRED HAND IS WORKING FOR A WAGE.
SO REALLY HE IS WORKING FOR HIMSELF.
AND WHEN HIMSELF STARTS GETTING THREATENED MORE THAN WHAT HE THINKS IS WORTH FOR THE SHEEP, HE IS GOING TO RUN AWAY.
HIS INTEREST IS IN HIMSELF ONLY.
BUT JESUS IS THE GOOD SHEPHERD, THE ONE THAT LAYS DOWN HIS LIFE.
HE DOES IT FOR OUR GOOD, NOT FOR HIS GOOD.
VERSE 14: "I KNOW MY SHEEP, AND MY SHEEP KNOW ME."
ISN'T THAT GREAT NEWS?
ISN'T THAT GREAT?
ISN'T IT NICE TO BE KNOWN BY SOMEBODY?
YOU KNOW, WE HAVE OVER A MILLION PEOPLE IN THIS CITY.
BUT YOU KNOW WHAT, THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE THAT ARE FEELING LIKE THEY'RE THE ONLY PEOPLE IN THE WHOLE WORLD.
THEY FEEL LIKE THEY'RE SO ALONE.
THEY FEEL LIKE THEY'RE LOST.
THEY TRY TO -- I TRIED CALLING TO GET SOME SERVICE THE OTHER DAY, AND THEY ASKED ME WHAT IS MY PASSWORD.
WHAT IS THIS NUMBER?
WHAT IS THIS NUMBER?
WHAT IS YOUR PHONE NUMBER?
I SAID, HEY, I'M DAVE.
I'M YOUR CUSTOMER.
I PAY YOU EVERY MONTH.
WHY DO YOU WANT ALL THESE NUMBERS?
IT'S ME!
THERE IS A GREAT THEOLOGIAN NAMED BOB SEAVER, WHO WROTE A SONG ABOUT THIS CALLED, "I FEEL LIKE A NUMBER."
I WANT TO SHARE SOME OF THE LYRICS WITH YOU.
HE SAID: "I FEEL LIKE JUST ANOTHER SPOKE IN THE GREAT BIG WHEEL, LIKE A TINY BLADE OF GRASS IN A GREAT BIG FIELD."

ANYBODY?

"TO WORKERS, I'M JUST ANOTHER DRONE; TO MA-BELL, I'M JUST ANOTHER PHONE.

I'M JUST ANOTHER STATISTIC ON A SHEET.

TO THE TEACHERS, I'M JUST ANOTHER CHILD.

TO THE I.R.S., I'M ANOTHER FILE.

I'M JUST ANOTHER CONSENSUS ON THE STREET.

I'M GOING TO CRUISE OUT OF THE CITY, HEAD DOWN TO THE SEA.

I'M GOING TO SHOUT OUT AT THE OCEAN, HEY, IT'S ME.

AND I FEEL LIKE A NUMBER.

I FEEL LIKE A NUMBER.

I FEEL LIKE A STRANGER, A STRANGER IN THIS LAND.

I FEEL LIKE A NUMBER.

I'M NOT A NUMBER.

I'M A MAN.

I SAID, I'M A MAN."

THIS WORLD CAN MAKE US FEEL THAT WAY.

REMEMBER BACK IN THE DAYS WHEN YOU USED TO WRITE CHECKS FOR GROCERIES AND STUFF?

[LAUGHTER]

>> Pastor Dave: I REMEMBER YOU WOULD START WRITING YOUR CHECK OUT, AND YOU'D GIVE IT TO THEM, AND THEY WOULD SAY IS EVERYTHING CORRECT ON HERE, ALL OF THESE NUMBERS RIGHT?

YEAH.

WHAT IS YOUR PHONE NUMBER?

YOU GIVE THEM YOUR PHONE NUMBER.

NOW THEY WANT TO SEE YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE.

THEY DON'T REALLY EVEN LOOK AT THE DRIVER'S LICENSE.

I SHARED THIS IN THE FIRST SERVICE, AND I'LL TELL YOU GUYS, THIS IS TRUE CONFESSION TIME FOR ME.

I'M KIND OF A NUT ABOUT SOME THINGS.

SO I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE FUN TO SEE HOW PEOPLE REALLY LOOK AT YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE.

YOU KNOW THE LITTLE PLASTIC SHEETS THAT YOUR LICENSE SLIDES INTO THAT FLIPS OPEN AND OPEN AND OPEN?

I CUT OUT A PICTURE, MY DRIVER'S LICENSE SIZE, OF ALBERT EINSTEIN STICKING HIS TONGUE OUT, LIKE THIS, AND PUT IT OVER MY FACE ON MY DRIVER'S LICENSE.

WHEN THEY WOULD ASK ME FOR MY DRIVER'S LICENSE, I WOULD GIVE IT TO THEM AND THEY WOULD COPY THE NUMBER DOWN BUT NEVER NOTICED -- DO I LOOK LIKE ALBERT EINSTEIN?

[LAUGHTER]

>> Pastor Dave: ANYWAY, THEY'RE JUST INTERESTED IN MY NUMBER.

SOMETIMES THAT SEEMS LIKE ALL WE ARE TO PEOPLE.

TO FILL OUT YOUR -- TO FILE YOUR INCOME TAX, THEY WANT YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER.

ALL OF THESE DIFFERENT THINGS.

BUT ISN'T IT GOOD TO KNOW THAT SOMEONE REALLY KNOWS YOU?
SOMEONE REALLY KNOWS YOU.
HOW WELL DOES JESUS KNOW YOU?
HE WAS THERE WHEN YOU WERE KNIT TOGETHER IN YOUR MOTHER'S WOMB.
IN YOUR MOTHER'S WOMB.
JESUS WAS THERE.
THIS IS THE GOOD SHEPHERD WHO KNOWS YOU.
IT IS MIND-BLOWING TO THINK THAT GOD CAN HOLD THE UNIVERSE IN THE PALM OF HIS
HAND, BUT EVEN THE VERY HAIRS OF OUR HEAD ARE NUMBERED.
THIS IS HOW INTIMATELY GOD LOVES EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US.
THE WORLD MIGHT SEE US AS A NUMBER, BUT GOD KNOWS EACH AND EVERY ONE AS
INDIVIDUALS.
AND SOMETIMES WE FAIL TO REMEMBER THAT.
WE DON'T INVITE CHRIST INTO OUR DAILY PARTS OF OUR LIVES.
WE DON'T BRING HIM IN.
WE LEAVE HIM OUT.
AND THEN WE FEEL ALONE.
JESUS GOES ON TO SAY -- OH, ANOTHER THING TO SAY ABOUT THE SHEEP KNOW MY VOICE.
WHAT IS IT THAT JESUS SAYS TO US?
I WROTE DOWN A COUPLE OF FAVORITE SCRIPTURES I HAVE IN TIMES WHEN I'M TROUBLING.
WE RECOGNIZE JESUS' VOICE BECAUSE IT IS FAMILIAR TO US.
AMEN?
I ENCOURAGE CONFIRMANTS TO MEMORIZE SCRIPTURE BECAUSE WHEN YOU'RE ALL ALONE
AND YOU NEED IT THE MOST, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TURN TO A BIBLE.
IT'S JUST GOING TO COME TO YOUR MIND.
IT'S GOING TO COME TO YOUR MIND AUTOMATICALLY.
WHEN THINGS GET REALLY TOUGH, IT'S GOING TO HAPPEN.
MEMORIZE SPIRITUAL SONGS, SONGS THAT PRAISE JESUS.
SONGS THAT CAN GIVE YOU STRENGTH AND HOPE IN TIMES OF TROUBLE.
SO MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE I THINK IS A VERY IMPORTANT THING.
EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT TRYING TO MEMORIZE IT, IF YOU READ SCRIPTURE ON A REGULAR BASIS,
IT WILL BE IN YOUR MIND.
IN TIMES OF DISTRESS AND PAIN, WHEN I'M NOT SURE I CAN TAKE ONE MORE STEP ALONG
THE PATH OF SUFFERING, I'VE HEARD JESUS' VOICE SAY: "PEACE I LEAVE WITH YOU.
MY PEACE I GIVE YOU.
I DO NOT GIVE AS THE WORLD GIVES.
DO NOT LET YOUR HEARTS BE TROUBLED AND DO NOT BE AFRAID."
PEACE.
AND PEACE IS NOT THE ABSENCE OF CONFLICT.
AMEN?
IT IS PEACE IN THE MIDST OF CONFLICT.
IT IS PEACE IN THE MIDST OF TRIBULATION.
IT IS KNOWING THAT THE GOOD SHEPHERD KNOWS YOU AND LOVES YOU, THAT HE HAS
DEFEATED DEATH.

HE HAS WON THE VICTORY FOR US.

WHEN MY FAITH FALTERS AND HOPE GROWS DIM, I'VE HEARD HIM SAY, "DO NOT LET YOUR HEARTS BE TROUBLED.

YOU TRUST IN GOD, TRUST ALSO IN ME."

WHEN I LOSE TRACK OF MY PURPOSE, AND I BECOME CONFUSED ABOUT WHAT MAKES LIFE GOOD AND TRUE, JESUS REMINDS ME, MY COMMANDMENT IS THIS: "LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU."

AND EVEN WHEN WE STAND AT THE RIM OF DEATH'S CANYON, OVER AND OVER HE HAS SPOKEN TO US WITH HOPE.

"I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE.

THE ONE WHO BELIEVES IN ME WILL LIVE, EVEN THOUGH THEY DIE."

THE COMFORTING WORDS OF OUR GOOD SHEPHERD, THEY ARE THERE FOR US.

HE IS HERE FOR US.

AVAIL YOURSELVES OF HIM.

GRAB AHOLD OF THAT HOPE.

GRAB AHOLD OF THAT PROMISE.

GRAB AHOLD OF THE CERTAINTY THAT HE KNOWS YOUR NAME, THAT HE KNOWS EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU.

HE GOES ON TO SAY THAT I HAVE OTHER SHEEP THAT ARE NOT OF THE SHEEP PEN.

DOES HE MEAN THERE IS GOING TO BE MORE THAN LUTHERANS IN HEAVEN?

I DON'T EVEN THINK ALL OF US LUTHERANS ARE GOING TO MAKE IT.

[LAUGHTER]

>> Pastor Dave: BECAUSE IT IS NOT ABOUT WHETHER YOU'RE LUTHERAN.

IT IS ABOUT WHETHER YOU TRUST IN CHRIST.

AMEN?

REMEMBER THIS OLD SONG: "RED AND YELLOW, BLACK AND WHITE, THEY ARE PRECIOUS IN HIS SIGHT ¶

¶ JESUS LOVES THE LITTLE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD ¶

>> Pastor Dave: LET ME HEAR YOU SING IT.

COME ON, ONE, TWO, THREE.

¶ JESUS LOVES THE LITTLE CHILDREN, ALL THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD ¶

¶ RED AND YELLOW, BLACK AND WHITE, THEY ARE PRECIOUS IN HIS SIGHT ¶

¶ JESUS LOVES THE LITTLE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD ¶

>> Pastor Dave: BRAVO!

BRAVO!

NICELY DONE.

CONGRATULATE YOURSELF.

JESUS HAS OTHER SHEEP.

IT WASN'T JUST FOR THE JEWS.

IT WAS FOR THE GENTILES.

IT IS FOR US AND IT IS FOR EVERYBODY.

THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT GOD LOVES US ALL EQUALLY.

WE'RE ALL CHILDREN OF GOD.

WE'RE ALL BROTHERS AND SISTERS.

SO WHY SHOULD WE BE ANGRY AT ONE ANOTHER?
THEY'RE OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS.
YOU KNOW WHY WE'D BE ANGRY AT OTHER PEOPLE?
BECAUSE WE THINK ABOUT OURSELVES.
FIRST AND FOREMOST, WE THINK ABOUT OURSELVES.
WHAT IS IN THIS FOR ME?
WE'RE LIKE THE HIRED HAND AND NOT LIKE THE GOOD SHEPHERD.
SO OFTEN TIMES THAT IS TRUE.
WE FORGET HOW BLESSED WE ARE.
WE FORGET WE'RE IN A POSITION TO HELP OTHER PEOPLE.
AND WE THINK ABOUT OURSELVES.
AND THAT IS WHERE THE LONELINESS STARTS TO SET IN.
AMEN?
WHEN WE START SEEING OURSELVES AND OURSELVES ONLY, WE GET ISOLATED.
AND WHEN WE'RE ISOLATED, WE START TO GET DEPRESSED.
AND WHEN WE GET DEPRESSED, WE START GETTING ANXIOUS.
HOW COME I'M FEELING THIS WAY?
WHY IS EVERYBODY ELSE HAPPY?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
YOU KNOW, I SPONSORED THIS GUY IN A.A., AND HE TOLD ME ONE TIME -- I ASKED -- I CALLED
HIM UP TO SEE HOW HE WAS.
IT IS SOMETHING I RECOMMEND YOU ALL DO, PICK UP THE PHONE EVERY NOW AND THEN
AND CALL SOMEBODY, JUST RANDOMLY, SAY, HOW ARE YOU DOING?
I WANT TO REACH OUT TO YOU.
I DID THIS TO THIS GUY.
HE GOES, I'M MISERABLE.
I'M SO GLAD YOU CALLED.
AND I GO, WHY ARE YOU MISERABLE?
AND HE GOES, I'VE BEEN THINKING ALL DAY.
I GO, WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT?
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT ME.
AND I SAID, IF I THOUGHT ABOUT YOU ALL DAY, I'D BE MISERABLE, TOO. [LAUGHTER]
GET OUTSIDE OF YOURSELF.
THINK ABOUT SOMEBODY ELSE.
GOD HAS PUT US INTO THIS WORLD, NOT FOR US TO JUST BE A SOURCE UNTO OUR OWN, BUT
TO SHARE THE GIFTS THAT HE HAS GIVEN US.
HE CALLED THE DISCIPLES TO BE SHEPHERDS, TO SHARE THE GOOD WORD WITH THEM, TOO.
NOW, THE DISCIPLES DIDN'T WANT TO DO IT RIGHT AWAY, RIGHT?
JESUS APPEARED TO THEM IN THE UPPER ROOM AND SAID, GO TO JERUSALEM AND WAIT
UNTIL MY HOLY SPIRIT COMES ON YOU, AND THEN YOU'LL BE EMPOWERED AND THEN YOU
CAN GO OUT AND TELL PEOPLE MY STORY. THE HOLY SPIRIT CAME IN ACTS 2,
BUT THEY JUST CONTINUED TO HANG OUT IN JERUSALEM.
YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO GET THEM OUT?
PERSECUTION, TRIBULATION, THE DIASPORA.

THEY WERE SPREAD OUT BECAUSE IF THEY STAYED WHERE THEY WERE AT, THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED.

SO THEY FLED.

AND THEY WENT TO THESE DIFFERENT AREAS.

AND THAT'S HOW THE GOSPEL GOT OUT TO ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD.

BECAUSE THEY'RE ALL IMPORTANT TO GOD.

BUT THEY WANTED TO JUST STAY IN THEIR OWN LITTLE ETHNIC GROUP.

I THINK IT WAS THE REVEREND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING WHO SAID THE SUNDAY WORSHIP HOUR IS THE MOST -- WHAT IS IT WHEN YOU'RE NOT OPEN TO OTHER PEOPLE?

IT'S THE LEAST INTEGRATED HOUR OF ALL TIME.

IT'S THE LEAST SEGREGATED.

WHY?

WHY?

IT'S THE SAME JESUS, RIGHT?

YOU KNOW, I WALK AROUND THIS NEIGHBORHOOD A LOT.

AND YOU MIGHT HAVE NOTICED, TOO, BY THE WAY, THAT WE ARE THE LEAST CONVERSING PROPORTIONATE TO THE POPULATION OF OUR NEIGHBORHOOD.

WE'RE ALMOST ALL WHITE.

OUR NEIGHBORHOOD IS ALMOST ALL BLACK.

AND I'LL TALK TO SOME OF THE PEOPLE THERE, WHEN I'M WALKING AROUND PRAYING FOR THEM, AND I SAY, SO HOW COME -- OUR CHURCH IS RIGHT HERE.

WHY DON'T YOU COME WORSHIP WITH US?

PASTOR, IT'S LIKE THIS:

WHEN I START TO GO TO CHURCH, YOU GUYS ARE SHOWING UP FOR YOUR 8:30 SERVICE.

I SAID, OKAY.

AND THEN YOU GUYS ARE DONE.

AND THEN YOU GUYS HAVE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

AND THEN YOU GUYS HAVE AN 11:00 SERVICE.

AND THEN YOU'RE DONE WITH THAT, AND WE'RE JUST GETTING STARTED STILL.

AND I SAID, WHY IS THAT?

WHY DO YOU TAKE SO LONG?

AND HE GOES, WELL, WHEN YOU'VE BEEN BEAT DOWN AS HARD AND AS LONG AS WE HAVE, IT JUST TAKES A LITTLE WHILE TO GET BACK UP AGAIN.

AND THEY'RE IN THE RIGHT PLACE, RIGHT?

I DON'T THINK WE MIGHT NECESSARILY KNOW ABOUT ALL OF THAT AS WHITE PEOPLE BECAUSE IT HASN'T HAPPENED TO US BEFORE,

NOT AS A RACIAL THING.

THIS SERMON IS NOT ABOUT THAT -- I DON'T KNOW HOW I GOT OFF ON THAT TOPIC.

IT IS JUST THAT IT IS FOR EVERYONE.

IT IS FOR EVERYONE.

IT IS FOR EVERYONE.

ALL OF US, BROTHERS AND SISTERS, RED AND YELLOW, BLACK AND WHITE, WE ARE PRECIOUS IN THEIR SIGHT.

AND THEN JESUS GOES ON TO TELL US HE LAYS DOWN HIS LIFE ON HIS OWN ACCORD.

HE LAYS IT DOWN AND HE CAN PICK IT UP AGAIN.
WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT AGAIN HERE?
JESUS LAID DOWN HIS LIFE -- WHEN?
GOOD FRIDAY. PICKED IT UP AGAIN ON WHEN?
EASTER SUNDAY.
SO CAN WE SAY HE IS RISEN.
>> HE IS RISEN.
>> Pastor Dave: I GOT IT IN THERE.
HE IS RISEN.
>> HE IS RISEN, INDEED.
HALLELUJAH.
>> Pastor Dave: I'VE ONLY GOT A COUPLE MORE WEEKS OF DOING THAT -- I'VE GOT ALMOST
TO THE END OF MAY, SO I CAN WORK THAT IN.
ANY TIME DURING THE SEASON OF EASTER, IT IS FAIR GAME FOR THE PASTOR TO SAY THAT TO
YOU.
SO HE IS RISEN.
WE ARE IN THE SEASON OF EASTER.
HE LAID DOWN HIS LIFE AND HE PICKED IT UP AGAIN.
HE DID IT FOR YOU.
HE WAS SINLESS.
HE TOOK ON OUR SIN ON THE CROSS.
HE OFFERED US THIS SINLESS LIFE THAT HE LIVED THROUGH FAITH IN HIM.
THAT'S WHAT THE GOOD SHEPHERD DOES FOR US.
"I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD.
I KNOW MY SHEEP, AND MY SHEEP KNOW ME."
IT IS HARD TO BE JUST A NUMBER, BUT THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT GOD LOVES YOU AND IS
PRESENT WITH YOU ALL THE TIME, THAT HE SENT HIS SON, JESUS CHRIST, TO BE OUR GOOD
SHEPHERD.
AND OUR GOOD SHEPHERD KNOWS YOUR NAME.
AMEN.