

Commentary on the Gospel for Mon, Apr 30th 2012

In the Palestine of Jesus' time, the sheep follow the shepherd, they are not driven from behind like cattle. Jesus often referred to his 'flock.' We are not driven along but rather attracted; we are not feeling before angry shouts but following an encouraging voice. Sheep follow their own shepherd because they recognize his voice. When shepherds meet and sit down to talk, their flocks intermingle, and when they go their separate ways the two flocks separate and follow, never making a mistake. But when a sheep is sick, she will follow just anyone.

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