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“You are a Place where God happens for Someone Else.”

“God can do nothing but speak the Eternal Word. If we are to be we must do and our doing is hearing the Eternal Word.” Meister Eckhart

Cold wind = attitudes of those who listen to Jesus

“How long will you keep us in suspense?” = in Gk. ‘annoyed’ or ‘bothered’

John: “I have told you and you do not believe”.

Luke: “If I tell you, you will not believe.” = If one’s predisposition is not to believe unbelief cannot be breached.

Only the Father can empower a repentance leading to the unbreakable relationship with Jesus. Will the Jews follow the model shepherd?

Jesus alludes to his work as a healer, not his words. Unusual... those things he does in the Father’s name are his mark ...that Jesus and the Father are one emanates not from his words but in the lives of the unsophisticated and broken people who need someone to heal them ...the divinity of Jesus shines through his activity.

You and I are called to offer to the world the Good Shepherd, Jesus. All of our acts of good will are a presentation of who he is. It is the most substantive testimony to messiahship that we can offer.

In Baptism, we and Christ are one; The world will know the Son by our works in His name just as the world knew the Father by the works of the Son.

“Hey somebody, I love you” ... son as he returns home to empty house.

The church, like the sheepfold in John’s parable of the Good Shepherd, is to be a safe house, a place where one can seek wholeness to become the human being God imagines us to be...

Jesus speaks of himself as the ‘door’ in this story before he speaks of himself as the ‘shepherd’. The priest is like a border collie trying to keep the folks herded up and pointed in the right direction. Jesus is the way into this family and no other way will do.

We are too quick to think that what seems good to us is God’s will. We so want to be right that we can never see in advance that final success often lies through an immediate failure.

We avoid these ‘failures’ by coming through Jesus, the door to the sheepfold.

Nothing gives authenticity to ministry save approaching ‘other’ through Christ as the door.

How do we do this? We come to every task through prayer as Jesus did. We refer all activities to the basic guidelines of our Baptismal Covenant (learning, worship, prayer, fellowship, proclamation, etc) Finally, we accept what happens as being

nearer the will of God than our own planned outcome would have been. This is the 'door' that opens both into the fold and into the world.

With all of the horror of our day to day world it is frustrating to think how can we shepherd a more peaceful world? Our instincts to tighten rules stiffen penalties, ban guns, trust no one and hope will doom us to utter failure.

If there is any hope it is here in the 'sheepfold of Jesus.' We call it the church. This is where we are to come to know that we are cared for deeply. It is here, through the doorway named Jesus that we can stand looking in and looking out and say "Hey somebody, I love you" and know it is heard and felt.

Martin Buber said; "Meet the world with the fullness of your being and you shall meet him. That he himself accepts from your hands what you have to give to the world is his mercy. If you wish to believe, love."