

## The Fourth Sunday of Easter 2020

### John 10

Holy Spirit, Light Divine/Shine upon this heart of mine  
Chase the shades of night away/Turn my darkness into day.  
Let me see my Savior's face/Let me all His beauties trace.  
Show that Gospel truth to me/Which is only known to Thee. Amen.

<sup>7</sup> So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. <sup>8</sup>**All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them.**

In the Name of Jesus.

***For the sheep the lamb has bled***--Hallelujah? Yup! Praise the Lord!

***Sinless in the sinners' stead!*** Can there BE such injustice? Praise the Lord and Hallelujah!

Who came BEFORE Jesus? Pilate scoffed at Him: ‘So, ummm...you’re a KING? Is that right? King of these people, your own,

who want nothing to do with you? In fact, who want you CRUCIFIED?’

The political arrangement in old Israel was simple. They had the Law of Moses; and people ordained to teach it. As far as heaven was concerned, that’s all God’s kingdom needs. But no! The people—praise the Lord!—were like ALL us nations. ‘WE want a big man too! A powerful man! A pharaoh, a Caesar, a governor, a mob boss, a don, a thug, a tyrant—we Gentiles have HORDES of names. Try to pretty it up, a bit, and you get to terms like ‘king.’

When the God of Israel relented and let them have a king, he made it clear, also, what a king would do. It’s there for you in First Samuel 8:

<sup>10</sup> So Samuel told all the words of the LORD to the people who were asking for a king from him. <sup>11</sup> He said, “These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen and to run before his chariots. <sup>12</sup> And he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and some to plow his ground and to reap his harvest, and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots. <sup>13</sup> He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. <sup>14</sup> He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards and give them to his servants. <sup>15</sup> He will take the tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and to his servants. <sup>16</sup> He will take your male servants and female servants and the best of your young men and your donkeys, and put them to his work. <sup>17</sup> He will take the tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves. <sup>18</sup> And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves, but the LORD will not answer you in that day.”

<sup>19</sup> But the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel. And they said, “No! But there shall be a king over us, <sup>20</sup> that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles.” <sup>21</sup> And when Samuel had heard all the words of the people, he repeated them in the ears of the LORD. <sup>22</sup> And the LORD said to Samuel, “Obey their voice and make them a king.” [\[1\]](#)

Dja hear that, over and over? He will take, take, take, take, take.

No wonder Pilate scoffed! If Jesus were a king, he was a sorry one! He had NO control over His own. They were, in NO WAY, His ‘SUBJECTS!’

The best king you can find in the Old Covenant was David, shepherd of Israel—AUTHOR of ‘The Lord is MY Shepherd!’ David, too, did everything the Good Shepherd spoke: steal, and destroy and kill. It’s all there, Second Samuel 11. Stole a man’s wife; killed that man; brought destruction on the nation.

However, dear sheep, it is not only DAVID who came before Jesus. If there was ANY good in David at all, it was because of Moses and the Law. But the Gospel according to Saint John reveals: Jesus is no David, no OVER-lord king; no strong man. But He is also so Moses!

The LAW came through Moses: demanding FROM YOU, KILLing you, DESTROYING your pretense.

Through Jesus Christ came such a predictable King: one you can ALWAYS win over; now. Because GOD has moved closer to us that and of us can believe: the Word was made flesh. And He laid down His Flesh for the life of the world. And His Flesh is living bread for the life—of not just ONE PEOPLE, not even the Church! But for the world!

Two examples of this today. One is on the cover of your bulletin. The great teaching of Doctor Martin Luther, from his matchless commentary on Saint Paul's letter to the Galatians:

**It is a marvelous thing and unknown to the world to teach Christians to ignore the Law and to live before God as though there were no Law whatever. For if you do not ignore the Law and thus direct your thoughts to grace as though there were no Law but as though there were nothing but grace, you cannot be saved.** (Martin Luther, Lectures on Galatians, Introduction)

But better than what Luther can teach, is that matchless teacher of the Church alive in our day: my grandson, Samuel Paul.

I was witness to the tyranny under which he lives. On the video gizmos we have, there was some toys being thrown over the gate, down the steps, crashing where they do not belong. According to the video GRAMPA SAW—it is REALLY HARD to see which of the two in the

room actually launched the toys: my grandson, Samuel Paul, or a member of his staff.

Anyway, the little lamb ended up in a jail of sorts, made of webbing. And then, he shone with all his glory. Condemned and imprisoned as guilty—WITHOUT hesitation!—he put on the sorry-sad face, raised up his hands, and said, pitifully, ‘Cuddle, mumma?’

How rotten! He’s normal. And he’s an example to us all.

Cry out to your God now—  
**CONDEMNED! CAUGHT! GUILTY! UNBELIEVING! Shameful and vice-ridden!**

Cry out to your God, ‘Cuddle, mumma!’ And, just like my grandson, Samuel Paul’s mother, the move is **AUTOMATIC...GRACE...AND...TRUTH!**

And what’s the boy gonna do a half-second after he is saved from his punishment? He’s as normal as you or I! Cuddling can wait: where’s the toys? By the steps?

<sup>14</sup> Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, “Behold your King!” <sup>15</sup> They cried out,

“Away with him, away with him, crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.” <sup>16</sup> So he delivered him over to them to be crucified. [\[2\]](#)

His Kingdom really is NOT of this world, is it?