

Reflection:

Good Shepherd Sunday Acts 4.7-12

How is what I am doing giving witness to my Christian faith? Our first reading shows Peter filled with the Holy Spirit answering boldly to the elders and the scribes, “This Jesus is ‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.’”¹² There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:10-12).” The first stone placed in the process of building a masonry foundation is called the cornerstone. This stone establishes the location of the entire construction because all other foundation stones are put in relation to it. In like manner, our beliefs and our lives must revolve around Christ if he is to be our cornerstone.

So, which shall we choose—to accept the cornerstone or reject the Son of God? God and his plans for us remain aligned when we remain in step with Jesus. God has already set the cornerstone in Jesus, but more stones—what Peter will refer to as “living stones”—will need to be added to form the kingdom of God's foundation. As a result, we can be in good relationship with God the Father if we align ourselves with Christ, the cornerstone. And we are in opposition to Christ if we do not identify with him. The choice is ours for sure. However, when envy, arrogance, or any other evil passion takes control of a person, they close their hearts and eyes, viewing everyone as uneducated fools who want to know nothing about Christ.

Most importantly, Christians ought to behave in a way that makes it clear to everyone they speak with that they have spent time with Jesus. Because of encounter with Jesus, Christians, are elevated above this world and hence become holy, divine, spiritual, and joyous. On this Good shepherd Sunday, God is calling all of us to work for the Gospel. Let's note that there are hundreds of ways of serving the Church and helping to build up the Christian community as we give witness to our faith. Ultimately, our success will depend on how best we align with Jesus as the cornerstone of our faith.