

Reflection on John 10:22-30

Who is Jesus of Nazareth? It is a question that is at the very heart of our faith as Christians. Is Jesus the Messiah? We can hear this passage and rest assured that we have heard the voice of Jesus and so we follow him and, therefore, experience eternal life and the safety that comes with it. Is Jesus the Good Shepherd? Having heard his voice, we know ourselves to be his sheep. From that perspective, this passage can be one of comfort and solace.

However, we could also hear this with concern—how can I be sure that I am following Jesus' voice? In a world where things move so quickly and there are so many competing voices, how do we know that we are following Jesus'? Jesus reminds his audience and us that they should know that he is the Messiah because of his works. His works are always about restoration, liberation, inclusion, healing, and justice; they are the works that create a just community. As we seek to live into the Resurrection and to follow the voice of the Good Shepherd Jesus, we will know that we are following his voice when we are also working towards restoration, liberation, inclusion, healing, and justice from which flow abundant life.

- What does abundant life mean to you?
- Have you ever been concerned or worried that you are not following Jesus' voice? Reflect upon that experience. At what point did you realize that you were or were not following Jesus? What was it that clarified it for you?