

# Sunday, April 22, 2018 – 4th Sunday of Easter

## Sermon: Abundant Life

Read John 10:7-15



For me one of the greatest promises Jesus makes is that He came to give us abundant life. He contrasts Himself with the enemy who wants to kill, steal and destroy. He came to give life. The abundant life is a life lived in the grace of God. It does not mean that we will have everything we want. The life Jesus gives us is not determined by the world's standards. The world thinks that an abundant life is having a lot of money, and being able to have and do anything we want. This sounds nice, but there are people who have this and are

miserable. The life that Jesus offers is a life in a relationship with Him. Knowing that He is always with us and that we are His. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who is going to take care of His sheep.



The enemy does not want us to have life. The devil is the enemy that Jesus is warning us about. He wants to steal the sheep from Jesus. He does not want us to have an abundant life. The last thing the devil wants is for us to have a living relationship with Jesus. He does whatever he can to stop us from having this relationship and life. He tries to convince us that it is not necessary to spend time with God.

We are tempted to find things to do that keep us from spending time with God. Stay too busy to pray, read the Bible or worship. The devil will try to tell us that we need to place our priorities on things and not Jesus. When we buy into lies like this we miss out on the abundant life.



To live the abundant life we put Jesus in the middle of our whole life. We make Him a part of everything we do. It does not mean that all we do is pray and read the Bible, but it does mean that in all that we do we realize Jesus is with us. We should be able to pray with all that we are doing. If we are not able to pray then we need to wonder about what we are doing. If we are ashamed by what we are doing then we should not do it. Jesus can be a part of all that we do. We can approach life with confidence knowing that Jesus is with us.



The abundant life is a life of service. It is serving Jesus through the way we live. Looking for ways to help others. This can mean telling them about Jesus. Do we believe that knowing Jesus is important? If we do then we should let others know about Him and the life that He offers. It is a life serving Jesus by helping those who are in need. The needs may be material, or maybe just taking time to actually be with others. We can find ways to show the love of Jesus as we spend time

with other people. It seems strange that the abundant life is a life of service instead of being served. As we serve we find a sense of satisfaction that being served will never give us.