

## Monday Morning Rewind – May 5, 2008

Happy Cinco de Mayo. On Sabbath we saw Jesus as “The Good Shepherd” in John 10 and explored His claim in verse 10: “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. “

As the Good Shepherd, Jesus knows each of us by name (John 10:3), protects us from dangerous imposters (vss. 1, 5), and gives life “more abundantly,” or to the full (vs. 10). This life that Jesus came to give can be defined as “Life as God intended and life as God Himself lives it.” Not life as it comes through Adam—a life that is infused with selfishness and rebellion against God; a life that is cut short by the wages of sin, which is death. But life as God intended—eternal life in harmony with its author. (See John 1:4; 5:26; 10:28.)

But beyond eternal life, Jesus came to bring us life “more abundantly.” Life that is *superabundant* in quantity and *superior* in quality. Incredible as it may seem, those who follow the Good Shepherd have a closer connection to God than Adam before sin (see 2 Peter 1:3, 4). Those who follow the Good Shepherd have a closer connection to God than even the angels in heaven (see 1 John 3:1). And those who follow the Good Shepherd have a closer connection to God than that available to those who supported the old sacrificial system (see Heb. 10:1-4, 11-14).

What Jesus came to give you and me is so far beyond a hymnal, a pew, some rules, and a place to park on Sabbath. Jesus wants us to experience life “as God Himself lives it!” God lives a life of unity with the Son and Spirit – In Christ, we do too. (John 17:21-23) God lives a life free of sin and guilt – In Christ, we do too. (Heb. 10:17, 21) God lives a life of holiness and perfection – In Christ, we do too. (Heb. 10:14) God lives a life of immortality – In Christ, we will, too. (John 6:47)

This is the abundant life Jesus came to give us. If you’re not experiencing this, you might be substituting dead works or doctrine or tradition or religion or cultural Adventism for the Jesus life that makes life worth living. These can be “thieves and robbers” of the abundant life Jesus offers. Pray about it and don’t settle for anything less.—Pastor Randy