



Apr. 22, 2018 Jn. 10: 11-18& Acts 4: 8-12

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Link to [Beck](#) (paywall) other [Beck](#)

Stone, Naomi. [Our Shepherd](#)

Rolheiser, Fr. Ron. [Prayer for those.....](#)

[Monastery Sunday Homilies](#)

[A good shepherd and his sheep](#)

[Calling Sheep](#)

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MDNj5a6qaoU>

#### ENTERING THE SCENE:

Reaching back to the earliest day of the scriptures we hear of people in power abusing their roles to enrich themselves and not caring for God's people. Since it was thought that they only had power because it was given to them by God to take care of God's flock, this abuse was roundly condemned and often. In fact when Jesus puts the words shepherded and good together it would have struck people as nonsense. In earliest days in 2013 Pope Francis he urges his pastors to get to know their sheep so well that they smelled like their sheep. In places today they are literally laying down their lives for their flocks. However, in some places they are even dropping the word "evangelical" because our modern day hirelings have misused this identification. Let us now see how Jesus describes being a shepherd today.

#### John 10:11-18

**I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.** 12 He who is a **hireling** and not a **shepherd**, whose own the **sheep** are not, see the **wolf** coming and **leaves the sheep** and **flees**; and the **wolf snatches** them and **scatters** them. 13 He **flees** because he is a **hireling** and cares nothing for the **sheep**. 14 **I am the good shepherd**; I **know** my own and my own **know** me, 15 as the Father **knows** me and I **know** the Father; and I **lay down** my life for the **sheep**. 16 And I have other **sheep** that are not of this **fold**; I must bring them also, and they will **heed my voice**. So there will be one **flock**, one **shepherd**. 17 For this reason the Father loves me, because I **lay down** my life, that I may **take** it again. 18 No one **takes** it from me, but I **lay it down** of my own accord. I have **power to lay** it down, and I have **power** to take it again; this **charge** I have **received** from my Father.

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** How do you tell the difference between a shepherd and a hireling

**PRAYER:** Trust is the basis of life. Without trust, no human being can live. Trapeze artists offer a beautiful image of this. Flyers have to trust their catchers. They can do the most spectacular doubles, triples, or quadruples, but what finally makes their performance spectacular are the catchers who are there for them at the right time in the right place. Much of our lives is flying. It is wonderful to fly in the air free as a bird, but when God isn't there to catch us, all our flying comes to nothing. Let's trust in the Great Catcher. Amen.  
Henri Nouwen