

April 15 to 21

Dresden District

Jesus said: I am the good shepherd. My sheep listen to my voice. I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life. (John 10: 11,27,28. CEB)

Why reading is good for the hearing

“Four zeros on the radiator-grill and one behind the steering wheel”. A cool quotation from the film, “Ein Mann namens Ove” (A Man Called Ove). Ove is commenting about the change of his neighbour’s make of car. He always used to drive a Volvo, and now he has a new Audi. “Audi” is Latin and means “Hear!”. The man from Ingolstadt who founded Audi consciously chose this name from one of the four previous ones, „Horch“. Horch means “Hear” or “Listen”!

In a world of pictures, audio messages don’t have it easy. It’s similar with the audio message about Christ. It doesn’t help much that the good sheep of John’s congregation have now become vocal/ unvocal users of all kinds of anti-social networks. Read – but only a few letters – and then look. But hear, let alone listen? For more than a few minutes? Any longer would be too much for someone of

today’s generation to concentrate on. Especially to sit through a speech or a sermon.

How do I listen to the good shepherd today? How can I recognise his voice, or his particular mode of expression? How can I pick out his pitch or tone in the babble of voices behind the visual onslaught? OK, I can listen to my heart, but that is well known to be deceitful. There’s nothing else for it, I need to read it again. Whole sections of it. John’s story of the good shepherd in the New Testament. And, of course, the story of the shepherd of Israel in the Old Testament. That can take a while, and requires much time – and full concentration. In the end, one would really need to talk to others who have read the same passages: to see how they have heard this voice whilst reading.

Christhard Rüdiger

Contact: christhard.ruediger@emk.de

Translation: Chris Woodhead

I THANKS

- for every single minute of the week, in which the story of God and his people is being told. Of the good shepherd and the spirit of creation
- for each person who takes the time to read this to others, to talk about it and to preach a sermon
- for every line in the holy library of the Bible, through which people have been brought to faith over several thousand years

I PRAY

- for the Bible studies, discussion groups, Bible cafés and other valuable opportunities, where through conversations the scriptures come alive

Dresden District

The Dresden District is one of the two districts in the East German Conference. It has 28 circuits stretching from Zittau into the „Erzgebirge“. The superintendent is Christhard Rüdiger who is based in Chemnitz.

Contact:

Superintendent Christhard Rüdiger
Dresden District
Heinrich-Beck-Str. 33
09912 Chemnitz

Tel. 0371-661 10 867

Email: district.dresden@emk.de