

Having Right Attitude Fourth Week of Easter Tuesday, April 19, 2016 8:15 AM
Acts 11:19-26; **Jn 10:22-30** (And people who think that they have a right to demand, a right to demand proof, a right to demand signs, a right to certainty, well, this is not the right attitude to/for someone who is really going to be open to God.)

This Gospel reading is a dispute between Jesus and some of his followers, whom he is more or less disowning. On the one hand, they seem to be really inquiring, **“Are you the Messiah? Tell us plainly.”** But the point is **his whole life is testimony of who he is**, and he expects people to be able to read that and to accept that. **So he is making a judgment that they really don’t want to know: “You do not believe me because you are not my sheep.”** Well, by definition sheep are those who follow, so they are not sheep at all; they are actually something else. They are critics. They are people who are self-important, thinking extremely highly of their own judgment.

And people who think that they have a right to demand, a right to demand proof, a right to demand signs, a right to certainty, well, this is not the right attitude for someone who is really going to be open to God. That’s not how God reveals. **God reveals indirectly.** And those who really want to find are, first of all, those who have already been touched in some way. **It’s God’s touch that comes first**, his so-called prevenient grace, and then draws us to him. Jesus is making the judgment you’re not really being touched by the Father and you’re not really being drawn to me because you wouldn’t be acting the way you are if you were. So it’s a dire moment. It’s a sad moment, but it exemplifies the sort of **difference between the mission of Jesus and what other people call religion.** And we might study it for our own edification.