

**Inadequacy of Words about Faith**      Fourth Week of Easter      Tuesday, May 9, 2017  
8:15 AM    Acts 11:19-26;    **Jn 10:22-30**    (Our understanding of the Christ is through the filter of the Cross and the mystery of the death and resurrection of Jesus.)

**“If you really are the Christ, tell us son in plain words.”**

There are many points made in this gospel reading, but there are two that are important for today. The first is that **when it comes to faith there is no such thing as just plain speech.** Faith is not a matter of speech. It’s not a matter of words. It often is reduced to that by a lot of people, and lots of paper and a lot of ink have been **wasted in disputes about words.**

Now hear the request is “Tell us plainly,” but there is no way to answer because even the word they use, “Are you the Christ? well, what do they mean by that? We have come to know Jesus as the Christ, but **our understanding of the Christ is through the filter of the Cross and the mystery of the death and resurrection of Jesus.** So we understand his Christ-ness that way. But they didn’t have that to understand. They didn’t know about the Paschal Mystery at all, so **their meaning of Christ had nothing to do with the very central mystery of our faith.** It had nothing to do with the mystery of the Incarnation. It had nothing to do with the Trinity, so therefore what did it mean? Well, something very different—something very different!

**So was he a Christ in their mind? Well, no.** But could he say, no, I’m not the Christ? Well, no, he couldn’t say that either. So this is a problem. This is the setting of this story. So **Jesus says, look, I have plainly told you who I am and what I’m doing, but you don’t get it because you are depending too much on words and you are not looking to action.** Being is ultimately about action. **Who we really are is about what we do with our lives,** not individual actions per se, but **the action of life.** What are we doing? What are we making of ourselves? **What are we giving to God? What is our offering? That’s who we are and that’s what this is about.** **Jesus says, well, you’re really not my sheep. That isn’t because God didn’t want them to be his sheep. It’s because they had a very different agenda.**