

WEEKLY SERMON

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Jesus knows us better than we know ourselves

John 10:14: Jesus said “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me – just as the Father knows me and I know the Father.

Did you know that the person with the most followers on Twitter is Katy Perry? At the latest count, over 107 million people around the world are following her. That’s a lot of people!

But do you know how many people Katy Perry is following on Twitter? The answer: just 215. A miniscule number compared with the number of her followers.

But it shouldn’t surprise us. The truth is that it’s impossible for Katy Perry to know 107 million people by name.

The people we admire from afar – the celebrities, the football players, the politicians - don’t know us.

And closer to home, perhaps the people we work with don’t really know us. Even in our families, we can feel that we’re not understood. No-one notices what we do. We fear that no-one cares about what we think or feel.

How wonderful, then, to hear the words of Jesus, the good shepherd: ‘I know my sheep and my sheep know me – just as the Father knows me and I know the Father.’

It’s an amazing thing to be able to say with David, ‘The Lord is my shepherd’ (Psalm 23:1). I can know him.

But even more amazing is the fact that He knows us. “He calls his own sheep by name;’ (John 10:3)

And it’s not just that he knows our name. He knows us better than we know ourselves. He knew us before we were ever conscious of knowing him (Psalm 139). He knows the worst about us – and still loves us.

In a culture where we are encouraged to create our own identity, Jesus offers the true foundation for human identity. You and I are not self-made people but are made by God for relationship with Jesus Christ.

If you don’t yet know him, his invitation is to come to him as your shepherd – to find your identity not in your achievements or in other peoples’ approval, but in being known personally by King Jesus.

HEALTHY CHURCHES TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

When my identity is focused on him, I worry less about what others are thinking of me, I'm less prone to self-importance and self-doubt. I'm set free to know the joy of being eternally known and loved by the Shepherd.

Rev Canon Andrew Raynes