

**May 8, 2020-Friday, Fourth Week of Easter**

**What happened to Mary after Jesus' death?**

The four Gospels tell very little about Mary following the death of her son. The Gospel of John says that from the time of the Crucifixion on, the disciple whom Jesus loved took Mary into his care.

The only additional mention of Mary after Jesus' death is in the Acts of the Apostles: "Together they devoted themselves to constant prayer. There were some women in their company, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers" (Acts 1:14)

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Ancient tradition has suggested that Mary moved with the Apostle John to Ephesus (in modern-day Turkey) where she lived out her final days. Today, travelers to Ephesus can visit "the house of the Virgin Mary," which is located on a mountain near Ephesus. In the 1960s, Pope Paul VI became the first pope to visit Mary's home in Ephesus.

Another tradition suggests that she stayed in Jerusalem since her family lived there. Catholics believed that, after her earthly life, she was assumed body and soul into heaven.

*Jesus said: "All who came [before me] are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture.*

(John 10:8-9)

What is the chemistry between me and Jesus?

Do I see him as he describes himself in the Gospel passage I read this week—a gate opening up to wide and enjoyable pastures? Someone with whom I can feel safe? Someone with whom I can rest easy? Someone whose voice I recognize and with whom I feel secure?

What if I "abandoned" myself to him: "Lord, do with me what you will."

Probably, like most people, I would brace myself for some suffering. In the back of my mind, perhaps I think that the more I give myself to the Lord, the more suffering I can expect from him.

But nowhere in this whole chapter of John's Gospel does Jesus come across as someone who intentionally sends me hardship, a rough road. He did say that these kinds of things happen in life, but he also said that he wanted to be there with me when they did.

There is a great difference between seeing Jesus as the one who sends suffering and seeing Jesus as my shepherd.

When I give myself to Jesus, I receive a good shepherd who will walk with me through every rough spot.

Spend some quiet time with the Lord