

THE QUESTION OF THE WEEK

“I know my sheep and my sheep know me. There is no taking the sheep out of my hands.
No one can take the sheep out of the Father’s hands.”

You’re in good hands with AllState.” We are all familiar with that tag line from commercial TV. We all intuitively understand what is being averred. “Good hands” are reliable and dependable hands. Reliable and dependable hands bring a sense of safety and care and protection. Good hands are strong hands. Good hands are hands that you can count on when the need is there. All of that and more is included in that commercial All that and more is inferred in the words the announcer says several times no matter whose voice the words come out of. We, the consumers, get it, of course. We know what is being said to us. It may or may not actually be real. The good hands may or may not be good hands. But the claim is being put forward and we are asked to believe.

Now rewind about two thousand years to the time of Jesus in the Upper room in Jerusalem on the night before he dies. He is with his closest disciples and he is breaking bread with them for the last time. And he refers to good hands. His hands. His Father’s hands. And he tells his men that they are in god hands. But these men know that what he says is true. They know it is true because they have witnessed it, because they have experienced it, because they have seen it in action over and over again for days and weeks and months and even years. When you are in the Lord’s hands you are indeed in good hands.

What Jesus adds though is that we are not only in his hands. We are also in his Father’s hands and if the hands of the Son are reliable then those of the Father must be the most reliable of all. But here’s the thing. We don’t always feel this “being in the Lord’s hands.” We do not always have a sense of it and we desperately at times want to feel this protection. What Jesus asks us is to step out in faith believing in the protection he will provide, believing that he will never abandon us, and believing that we will triumph even when we have lost. It is a faith that he asks. It is a trust that he asks. He trusts his Father even on the cross. And while it seems the father has abandoned Jesus his Son, on the third day he will rise, nevermore to die. He will live and now he will live forever—in glory. If it happened once. It can happen again. If it happened to hi it can happen to me. Dare I believe it? The question of the week.