

Joy part 3

John 10:1-10

1. This week saw the 40th Anniversary for the founding of the uniting Church. What aspects of the uniting Church are you grateful for?
2. Read John 10:1-10, list all the competing choices you can find in this parable.
3. What does *"life to the full"* look like?
4. Who or what is being pictured as the sheep pen, the gate, the shepherd, the watchman, the sheep, the stranger, the thieves and robbers and the pasture?
5. *"What we often don't realise about this story is that the original audience could not see the difference. From their point of view both shepherds and robbers were creepy outsiders who lived in the wilderness, both looked ragged, poor and untrustworthy. If townsfolk came across someone with a sheep they couldn't tell if this was a sheep belonging to the shepherd or one that had been nicked by a robber."* What difference does this make to understanding the parable?
6. Why is making good life choices so difficult for many people?
7. In what way is making good choices influenced by the way we think?
8. What do Proverbs 3:5-6, and Romans 12:2 have to say about the way we think?
9. In what ways can thinking the wrong things about ourselves and the world rob us of joy.
10. Mark sums up Jesus preaching ministry as: *"The time has come...The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"* (Mark 1:15). Repenting is from a Greek word *metanoia*, which means to have a change of mind – how is it good news that we are to have a change of mind?
11. *Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. (Psalms 139:23-24)*
12. *Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will. (Romans 12:2)*
13. Pray