

## IT'S A SHEEP'S LIFE

While out on a farm the other day I strode off down a rather long narrow paddock followed by Fluffy the pet sheep & a mob of lambs. I felt like the pied piper as they followed unsure of what was ahead of them or what they were meant to be doing. Fluffy was sure of what she wanted being an 11 year old, a good scratch of the nose & the warm gentle voice of the shepherd & his family that she knew so well. The others followed because they weren't too sure what was going on.

We were of course grazing the long acre on the side of the road. As these lambs had never been out there before they found the hard surface of the road fascinating. Even after awhile when some realised there was a reasonable amount of grass on the side of the road & began to eat there were those who stood right in the middle of the road. It seems you can lead sheep to grass but they don't always eat it.

As I stood being the human gate at one end of the long acre I thought about how similar it is to life. It seems that there are always people who will drift through life not really knowing where they are going. While others find anything scary & change seemingly paralyses them. While still others know what they want & go for it.

In the bible Jesus often used the metaphor of sheep & he even described himself as the good Shepherd. In the book of John it says, he goes ahead of them, & the sheep follow him because they know his voice. Do we know the voice of Jesus & follow him trusting in the same way Fluffy the sheep does?

Jesus said he is the gate & whoever enters by him will be saved, & will find pasture. As we go through the hard & rocky times of the drought are we looking to the true Shepherd for our needs or are we standing out by ourselves in the middle of the road of life?