

Refine Women's Ministry

The 'I Ams' of Jesus

"I am the Door"

September 23, 2020 by Ann Malm

"There is no other way to heaven but by the door, Christ Jesus."

- C.H. Spurgeon

"I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' Name."

-Edward Mote

INTRODUCTION

So far in our study, we have seen Jesus directly engaging the religious leaders of Israel and how the message has been received (or not received) by them. This is Jesus' last year of life here on earth, His message has become more and more direct, and the hearts of the religious leaders are more and more hardened. At this time, they are plotting to kill Jesus.

Hosea 9:8, The prophet is a watchman over Israel for my God, yet traps are laid for him wherever he goes. He faces hostility even in the house of God.

John 7:1 After this Jesus went about in Galilee. He would not go about in Judea, because the Jews were seeking to kill him.

John 7:19b "Why do you seek to kill me?"

John 7:25 Some of the people of Jerusalem therefore said, "Is not this the man whom they seek to kill?"

John 9:22 "His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue."

The word of God is provocative, it divides people, it creates hostility.

John 7:7b "...it hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil."

John 15:18 "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you."

The Good Shepherd Discourse

John 10:1-21

Jesus is expressing His deity and oneness with the Father. The "I AM" serves as a name for WHO He is, and the metaphor serves to help us understand WHAT He is. In using the "I AM" we can see the exclusivity of Jesus' claims. Not only does it declare that Jesus is timeless and self-existent, the "I AM" declaration stresses His uniqueness and says that there is no one like Him.

Jesus opens his teaching with an illustration using the most familiar person in Palestine, a shepherd. Today, we will be focusing on verses 7 - 10 of John 10 where Jesus states, "I AM the door". In order to get the full picture, we have to go back to Chapter 9 where we find the story of Jesus healing the blind man. Jesus did this miracle on the Sabbath day, and according to the tradition of the day, doing any work on the Sabbath was forbidden, so after the healing takes place, this man gets brought to the Pharisees where he is questioned regarding how he received his sight. The Pharisees are on high alert because of what Jesus had been teaching about himself in the Temple. Clearly they are threatened by all of this, and now they have an absolutely astounding thing to deal with; Jesus restores sight to a man born blind. Most likely this man had been begging near the temple. He was probably a man who these Pharisees (and everyone) would have walked by many times. Now he is walking around seeing! This brings hostility from the Pharisees.

The Pharisees were the religious leaders of the day, they were revered and respected by people, they were the pastors and preachers of the day.

Matthew 23:5-7 "They do all their deeds to be seen by others. For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces and being called rabbi by others."

The Pharisees held positions of high power. By human standards this kind of interaction would have been quite intimidating to the common man, especially one who had been blind by birth and assumed to be blind for reasons that he or his parents caused. (John 9:2 And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?") He was looked down on as a sinner who deserved what he got. The Jews don't believe that this is the same man they saw begging blind at the temple, so they drag in his parents. Then finally, they question the man a second time. To which he replies, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" For the Pharisees this is the utmost insult, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses." The discussion that follows gets the man thrown out of the temple.

“Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, ‘Do you believe in the Son of Man?’”

Luke 19:10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

Ezekiel 34:16 I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.

STUDY QUESTIONS:

As I read the passage, underline repeated words or phrases in order to help you identify key words and capture the main idea. Then we will take the next 7-8 minutes to digest it on your own and answer as many questions as you are able. Do it at your own pace, you may or may not have time to get through all of the questions on your own. The following 10-15 minutes your table hostess will facilitate going through the questions.

John 1:1-2,7-10

1 “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. 2 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. 7 So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

1. Crowd Addressed:

Who is Jesus addressing by “Truly, truly, I say to you,”?

2. Characters and Content:

a. List the “characters” Jesus uses to illustrate His point in verses 7-10.

b. Briefly describe the “picture” Jesus is drawing for His audience. (also see John 10:1-6)

3. Central Lesson: Write down any principles, insights or lessons that you observed in this passage. (hint: go back through the passage and make note of the words you underlined. These are likely “key words”, i.e., the words that help you understand what the passage is about.)

4. Choice verse: Write down what you think is the key verse. (The verse that sums it all up.)

5. Caption: Give this passage a title.

6. Conclusion: What has God taught you about Himself in this passage? What initial personal applications might you come up with?

TEACHING

Crowd addressed - So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you," John 9:40-41, Jesus says, "For judgement I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind."

"If you were blind, you would have no guilt, but now that you say 'you see', your guilt remains."

The Pharisees claim to be the ones who know God's word, who teach God's word, they are the spiritual authority in Israel! They claim this authority and reject Christ's authority, claiming that they "see" is a statement of righteousness apart from Christ, it is a rejection of Christ, to which Jesus rightly points out that this is what keeps them in their guilt.

Matthew 15:1a "...They are blind guides leading the blind..."

Mathew 23:16-17, 24 - 16 Blind guides! What sorrow awaits you! For you say that it means nothing to swear 'by God's Temple,' but that it is binding to swear 'by the gold in the Temple.' 17 Blind fools! ... 24 Blind guides!

John 10:1-2, "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in another way, that man is a thief and a robber."

This was a tremendously hostile climate into which Jesus speaks.

"...when the light shines into the darkness, the roaches begin to scatter." Steve Lawson

But Jesus is not deterred by men's reactions, or failures, or hostilities. He is dead set on fulfilling the Father's plan. His mind is on the salvation and safety of the sheep.

Claim announced "...I am the door of the sheep."

"I AM" - nothing less than claiming to be eternal God in human flesh.

"The door of the sheep" - Jesus is the only point of entry into the kingdom of God. They have attempted to make many doors; keeping their man-made laws, their religious routines; the law of Moses.

Galatians 1:13-14 For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it. And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers.

Galatians 2:16 ...yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

Matthew 7:13-15 "Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few. Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. These are the pharisees; they stand beside the gate, but attempt to deter people from entering."

1Corinthians 1:18 For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

The way to life is through the person of Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:17, 21 For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life *through the one man Jesus Christ*. ...so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life *through Jesus Christ our Lord*.

Ephesians 1:5 he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons *through Jesus Christ*, according to the purpose of his will,

Philippians 3:9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes *through faith in Christ*, the righteousness from God that depends on faith--

1Thessalonians 5:9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation *through our Lord Jesus Christ*,

Proverbs 14:12 There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.

Charlatans exposed "All who came before me are thieves and robbers..."
(Charlatan - a person falsely claiming to have a special knowledge or skill; a fraud.)

Thieves - because they steal with deception, they distort the message, they cloud the truth

Robbers - stealing with violence, they are damaging the people who receive their deceptive message.

Far from their high reputation and the honor they were accustomed to, Jesus does not kow-tow to them. They failed to meet the spiritual qualifications of a true shepherd, they sound so religious, look so spiritual, yet Jesus exposes them. They are bankrupt. Jesus' harshest words were for the spiritual leaders of Israel. He publicly rebuked and renounced them.

"...but the sheep did not listen to them..."

The sheep, the elect of God. those he chose before the foundation of the world, they did not hear them. In spite of the religious trappings and message. The sheep are given ears to hear, they turn away from the false shepherd. They will not follow, but flee.

Romans 10:17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Call extended "I Am the Door. If anyone enters by me..."

"I am the door" is a statement of defence of himself, and an open invitation to them.

Jesus brings clarity and He preaches salvation.

"If anyone"

Whosoever; This is an open call to all.

"enters by me.."

Leave where you are and step through the door to enter into the kingdom. Take the step out of the evil world system, and come through the gate of faith in Jesus Christ. Enter into the kingdom of heaven and entrust your soul to Jesus who stands at the door.

"he will be saved"

Saved - rescued from imminent danger, delivered from great harm, saved from the final judgement, divine wrath, eternal condemnation and hell.

- You will not perish - Destroy: signifies "to destroy utterly;" "to perish." The idea is not extinction but ruin, loss, not of being, but of well-being.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him *should not perish* but have eternal life."

- You will not come into judgement - the process of investigation, the act of distinguishing and separating"

John 5:24 "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life."

- You will not be condemned - to pronounce an opinion concerning right and wrong; summoned to trial that one's case may be examined and judgment passed upon it; the sifting and weighing of evidence

John 3:18 "Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God."

Through faith in Christ, we can escape what we deserve and receive what we do not deserve.

“...and will go in and out and find pasture...”

The one who is saved will go in at night and find protection from danger. They go out during the day to green pasture, and to still waters and given the greatest nourishment and refreshment. You will be protected and satisfied. (Isaiah 40, Psalm 23)

Eze 34:23 And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd.

Psalm 65:4 Blessed is the one you choose and bring near, to dwell in your courts! We shall be satisfied with the good of your house, the holiness of your temple!

Proverbs 19:23 The fear of the LORD leads to life, and whoever has it rests satisfied; he will not be visited by harm.

“God's ordinances are the green pastures in which food is provided for all believers; the word of life is the nourishment of the new man. It is milk for babes, pasture for sheep, never barren, never eaten bare, never parched, but always a green pasture for faith to feed in. God makes his saints to lie down; he gives them quiet and contentment in their own minds, what ever their lot is; their souls dwell at ease in him, and that makes every pasture green.” Matthew Henry

Psalm 116:12 What shall I render to the LORD for all his benefits to me?

Contrast “The Thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy, I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

The thief steals what does not belong to him, and kills the souls of men, destroying the true gospel. In contrast Jesus says, I came, that they may have life. The moment they enter through the narrow gate, they receive this life. This is unending life, the life of God, new life, unlike anything they have experienced before.

And..have it abundantly, present tense, right now, will have it abundantly -over the top! His supply far exceeds our need. You can never begin to exhaust it. We are empty, He is more than full.

John 6:35 Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.

John 7:37 ...Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'"

"When we look to ourselves, we suffer a paralysis of analysis, but when we look to Christ our hearts are filled to overflowing...You will find more forgiveness than all your sins, more joy than all your sorrows, more peace than all your storms. It is all found in Jesus. If you have Him, you have everything. If you don't have Him, you have nothing. So enter through the door, it's just a step of faith, and trust your life to Christ, and you will enter into the sufficiency of His grace." Steve Lawson

Acts 4:12 And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

I love to tell the story
For those who know it best,
Seem hungering and thirsting
To hear it like the rest.

I love to tell the story
'Twill be my theme in glory,
To tell the old, old story
Of Jesus and his love!

- Alan Jackson

Homework:

Read through Isaiah 40 and Psalm 23. List the benefits that come with being in the care of the Good Shepherd. When you complete your list, spend time thanking God for these benefits!

Resources:

Scriptures taken from ESV version

blueletterbible.com

Mathew Henry's Concise Commentary on the Whole Bible, Thomas Nelson, 1997

Personal Bible Study - Rick Warren, 1981

Meeting Jesus - R.C. Sproul, The Banner of Truth Trust, 2019

I AM Bible Study - Rose Visual Bible Studies, 2020

Living Praise Hymnal - Zondervan Corporation, 1974

The I AM Statements of Jesus - W.M. Henry, The Open Bible Trust, 2020