

Jesus, The Door and The Good Shepherd (John 10:1-21)
That You May Believe: The Gospel of John
Southern Hills Baptist Church
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WELCOME

Welcome, I hope you are well tonight. If you have your Bibles open up to John 10.

INTRODUCTION – 7 “I AM” STATEMENTS OF JESUS

One of the aspects of John’s Gospel that is enjoyed by many are the 7 “I Am” statements of Jesus. On 7 separate occasions in the Gospel of John Jesus makes a clear and significant statement as to who He is, using the formula, “I am _____.”

We have already walked through two of them in our studies.

- I am the Bread of Life (John 6:35, 48, 51)
- I am the Light of the World (John 8:12; 9:5)

These were significant statements that gave us incredible insight into the person and work of Jesus. Again, this is Jesus directly telling us who He is and how we ought to think of Himself, thus when these statements are made our ears need to perk up.

2 More!

We have a real treat tonight in that our passage has two of these “I am” statements, meaning we have our work cut out for us tonight, to be sure. But what a joy it will be as we get to feast upon some incredible truth about Jesus meant to inspire hope and feel loved.

My Goal – Stare Deeply at the Beauty of Jesus

Before we begin to do any work in our text let me quickly share my goal for us tonight. I want us to come and **stare deeply into the beauty of Jesus**. Our passage speaks very little about who we are or how we should live. I know some of you love practical messages that give you guidance on how you ought to live. Tonight you won’t get a lot of that, but what is here for us is so rich and it has been given to us to accomplish the same purpose as other, more practical message.

Fix Your Eyes, Transform into His Image

As Jesus reveals Himself in our passage tonight we get some important and beautiful images of who He is. My encouragement to you is to take up the teaching of Hebrews and **fix your eyes upon Jesus**, the author and finisher of your faith. In so doing, **in beholding the beauty of Jesus and gazing at the glory of Jesus** we put ourselves in a position to live out 2 Corinthians 3:18, where we will find ourselves **transformed into the image of Jesus as we behold His glory**, being transformed from one image of glory to another.

So stare deeply tonight. Consider with me what it means for Jesus to be the door and our Good Shepherd.

CONTEXT – John 9-10

Now something that is going to be important for you to understand as we enter into John 10 is that the backdrop of this story is a continuation from John 9. Remember, Jesus had just healed the blind man and the Pharisees were upset over the attention He was receiving. They wanted to quiet any and all stories of this Jesus, but it was impossible to do so seeing as how this blind man that everyone in the community was familiar with could now see and he was openly testifying to this grand miracle.

At the end of John 9 we see Jesus talking to this blind man who can now see. He is telling this man who He is, but He is only getting started as He goes much deeper in 10:1-21.

OUR TEXT

Let's take a moment and listen to the words of Jesus...

John 10:1-21

[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. [3] To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. [4] When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. [5] A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." [6] This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

[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. [11] I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. [12] He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. [13] He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. [14] I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, [15] just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. [16] And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. [17] For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. [18] No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

[19] There was again a division among the Jews because of these words. [20] Many of them said, "He has a demon, and is insane; why listen to him?" [21] Others said, "These are not the words of one who is oppressed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?"

CULTURAL CONTEXT - COMMUNAL SHEEPFOLD

Now, to really understand what Jesus is teaching about Himself here you have to understand the shepherd industry of the day, which all of His audience would have. You may not though, so let me give you an overview of how it worked in Jesus' day and age.

Dropping off the Sheep

During the day the Shepherd would take his flock of sheep out into the fields to graze and eat. At night he would lead them back to the central pen, which was one large sheepfold. Most communities had at least one. The shepherd would lead his flock to the central pen for the night so he could go and get some rest while his flock was kept safely. Multiple shepherds would lead their flocks and they would

all be kept in this central pen. There was a gatekeeper who would keep look for the flock overnight. Each of the shepherds would chip in to pay the gatekeeper for his overnight work.

Job of the Gatekeeper

When morning broke, the shepherds would return to the central pen and the gatekeeper would let them in through the gate. This was a big part of their job. No sheep out and no strangers in, ensuring that the shepherd's flock would be kept safe for him when he returned in the morning.

The Next Morning

When the shepherd would return in the morning the gatekeeper would allow him in via the gate and the shepherd would call for his sheep. Often the shepherd would name his sheep and he would call them by name, especially those who might be straggling. Now generally, there would be multiple flocks mixed in this one central pen, but the sheep knew the voice of their shepherd. They knew the voice of the one who led them to green pastures and running water so they eagerly left the pen to follow after him.

Recap of Vs. 1-6

So this is cultural context that would be been well known to all who were there listening to Jesus. And with this backdrop in mind, Jesus begins to speak in word pictures, in an allegory. He says that those who enter the sheepfold, not by the door, but by scaling the wall and breaking in, they are thieves and robbers. But in comparison, the one who enters by the door, the one who the gatekeeper allows into the fold, that one is the true shepherd. He is the one who leads the sheep out by his voice as he knows his sheep and his sheep know him.

Missed Truth

Jesus said these things and was teaching great truth about Himself, but these truths flew over heads of the crowd that was there. This often happened when Jesus taught in word pictures like this. He almost always had to go back and explain them and thankfully He does that here for us as well.

2 Big Truths

In the midst of this allegory there are two big things that Jesus is revealing about Himself, there are two big things we need to see about Jesus.

- First, **Jesus is the door**. He is the gate to the sheepfold. This is a truth that is full of hope and comfort, yet it also teaches us something of critical importance concerning how we might find God.
- Secondly, **Jesus is the Good Shepherd**. He is the One who cares for our souls and provides for us. This image shows us the incredible depth of Jesus' love.

With that said, let me reread verses 6-10 as we consider what it means for Jesus to be the door.

John 10:6-10

[6] This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. [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.

JESUS, THE ONLY DOOR (vs. 6-10)

As Jesus begins unfolding this allegory the first thing He reveals is that He is the door, the gate into the sheepfold, He is the point of entry. This image has a lot to say about who Jesus is. There are 3 things I want us to enjoy about Jesus from this image.

1. As the Door, Jesus is the Only Way to God

The first thing we need to pick up on from this image is that Jesus is the only way to God. Jesus is the exclusive path to God. Notice what Jesus said, **"I am THE door."** He is not "a door" or "one of many doors," Jesus is "the door." **This is a statement of exclusivity.** Jesus gives clarity as to what He means when He identifies Himself as the door in verse 9. Anyone who enters through Him will be saved. The salvation that Jesus is interested in over and over again in the Scriptures is the salvation of your soul. **Jesus' claim of exclusivity is made concerning your eternal destiny.**

Way, Truth, Life

This claim to be "the Door" is reminiscent of a passage we have not come to yet, but it is one you are likely familiar with, John 14:6...

John 14:6

[6] Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

THE way. THE truth. THE life. NO ONE comes to the Father, EXCEPT through JESUS!

Exclusivity – Unpopular

Now, this is not a popular claim in our world. For me to stand before you tonight and say that Jesus is the only way to God, the only way to Heaven, is to also say that all other ways are wrong,

- that Mohammed will not lead you to Heaven,
- that the book of Mormon will leave you in your sin,
- that Buda and Krishna cannot save your soul,
- that being a good person will not cut it.

you know, a statement like this one will not be well received in our country or most countries for that matter.

Trusting Jesus' Divine Word

We don't make this statement, however, out of a position of pride, where we look to exalt ourselves by telling people we are better and have the better way. We make this statement because it is true, Jesus has told us such. Jesus' word counts differently than the word of others because He is God. He is God become man. We know this from the testimony of His life, the prophecy He fulfilled, the miracles He performed, the sinless life He lives, and most importantly how He overcame death and the grave and rose again to life after having been crucified and laid in a grave for 3 days.

Unrivaled Resume

Jesus has a resume that is unrivaled and that proves His deity. He is God. Thus when He speaks we listen and He is telling us that He and He alone can save our souls from the sin that we have committed before a Holy God.

Trust Jesus Today. He is the Only Way.

The implication of this reality is that we need to trust in Jesus today. We need to put our full faith in Him. You cannot save yourself. **Others will tell you that there are many paths to God, Jesus tells us that this is simply not true. He is the door, the only path to God, the only way to Heaven.**

He Will Save

Trust Him today and know that He is mighty to save. He says that those who enter into the fold through Him, or in other words, those who put their faith in Him will be saved. He doesn't say that some will be saved or some might be saved, but ALL who put their faith in Him WILL be saved. He is the door to a certain salvation, if you will put your faith in Him.

2. As the Door, Jesus is Our Security and Refuge

Something else that we need to pick up on from this image of Jesus as the door is that Jesus is our security and refuge. **A door is a gateway to safety, right?**

Run to the Door!

Have you ever watched a scary movie where someone is being followed and they know it so they are walking very quickly towards their car? As you watch the movie and the tension builds with this stalker closing the gap. In that tense moment, you are thinking to yourself, just get to the car, open the door, get to the car, open the door. The door there is the path to safety, right?

Don't Open the Door!

Maybe you have seen another kind of scary move where someone is safe inside their home, but hear a strange noise outside and of course they have to go investigate. As they peer through their window, looking outside, you are thinking to yourself, just stay inside, don't open the door, leave it closed, it is locked, what they thunder are you doing? Why are you opening the door, noooo! The door was providing a different kind of safety here, but still safety, that is until it was opened up.

The Safety Your Soul Needs

Jesus has told us that those **who enter through Him will be saved. Jesus offers the safety your soul longs for and needs.** He offers a forgiveness of sins that is so thorough that you will be able to stand before God one day in His perfect righteousness.

No Fear in the Face of Uncertainty

The world we live in is so uncertain. The most recent presidential election is proof positive of that, right? Uncertainty can be scary and even nerve-racking. **Believers, we don't have to live in fear.** As John writes in his first epistle, "**perfect love casts out fear**" and brothers and sisters, we have been loved perfectly in Christ, in Him we no longer have to fear. He is our security and refuge. He is the door that we enter unto eternal salvation.

3. As the Door, Jesus is our Passage to Provision

The final aspect of Jesus' doorness we should see, is that He is our passage to provision. Doors are not only gateways into refuges, they are gateways out to the world where we find the provision we need. The sheep are taken to that communal pen at night to protect them from predators or thieves, but they can't stay there 24/7, they need to go out and find food. The door or the gate of the pen is the pathway to provision, to their green fields for grazing.

The Abundant Life

Jesus is our passage to provision. He says this very boldly when He says that He came that we might have life and we might have it abundantly. **Jesus has come to offer us the kind of life that our souls hunger for...**

- a life of joy,
- a life of meaning,
- a life of significance,
- a life of depth,
- a life that matters,
- a life that is a part of something bigger,
- a life of substance,
- a life of hope,

In the words of Switchfoot, **we want to thrive, not just survive**, and this is the kind of life that Jesus offers us in the **here and now and to greater depths in eternity. He connects every aspect of our lives to the eternal purposes of the Creator and King of the Cosmos and He guarantees eternal blessings that are worth any cost to obtain.**

Just as the gate of the sheepfold is the pathway to the green grass for grazing and the cool running water for drinking, Jesus is our pathway to the provision our souls long for, an abundant life.

Security and Adventure

What a wonderful Savior we have in Jesus. **Typically if you want total security you have to place yourself in some kind of lockdown.** When the police or the FBI places a key witness in protective custody that witness is kept in a safe house and can't leave to go do anything or contact his loved ones. Sure he is safe, but who would want to live that way forever? **In Jesus we find this kind of incredible security, but at the same time we are not placed on lock down, He also provides for us an abundant life. In Jesus we get unshakable security and life's greatest adventure!!!**

There is none greater than Jesus, The Door, the only way to God, our security, our passage to the Abundant Life.

Transition

So in this allegory that Jesus has presented He is the Door, but He is more than that, He is also the Good Shepherd. Let's read about this in verses 11-21...

John 10:11-21

[11] I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. [12] He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. [13] He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. [14] I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, [15] just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. [16] And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. [17] For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. [18] No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

[19] There was again a division among the Jews because of these words. [20] Many of them said, "He has a demon, and is insane; why listen to him?" [21] Others said, "These are not the words of one who is oppressed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?"

JESUS, THE GOOD SHEPHERD (vs. 11-18)

This is a powerful image of Jesus. One that I want us to savor. Jesus gives us 4 descriptions of Himself as the Good Shepherd. Let's consider them together...

1. He is no Hired Hand – He is Personally Invested in Us

One of the first things that Jesus says of Himself as the Good Shepherd is that He is no hired hand.

No Stake – Just a Job

There were many shepherds who were hired hands, meaning they didn't own the sheep, they were paid a daily wage to care for the sheep. So they didn't really have a personal stake in the sheep, they didn't have any skin in the game, if you will. They were there for the job, not the sheep. It wouldn't matter to the hired hand so much if one of the sheep died over night, so long as his job was still there in the morning.

A Wolf and a Hired Hand

Jesus illustrates this by saying, if a wolf were to come upon the flock, the hired hand's first care would be for his own safety so how would he respond? He would run. He would give no thought to the sheep. In fact, they would be a buffer between himself and the wolf. And as a result the sheep would be picked off and scattered.

David Killed a Lion

When you have ownership the tables turn however. Think back to the story of young David before He was made king. When he was a teenager he would tend to the family's flock. The sheep were part of his family's livelihood, thus the stakes were higher. What happened when a lion came upon David and the flock? He protected the flock. He fought off the lion. Why? Was he a braver man than the hired hand? Not necessarily. The key difference is that the stakes were higher for David. His family would be in financial turmoil if their flock was lost. Additionally, those sheep were pets to David, there was a bond, they were his. So he protected them.

Invested in Us!

In saying that Jesus is not a hired hand, He is saying that we, those who have put their faith in Him, we, **are not mere tasks to be checked off of a to-do list from God the Father.**

- He is personally invested in us.
- He cares for us.
- He loves us.
- We are His. There is ownership.

We Are His

Jesus raises this all to speak to His love for us. **It is not a manufactured love or a faked love that is displayed to make it seem as if He is doing His job well. We are His. He bought us at the cost of an infinite price** we will talk about in a moment.

When He sees us, **He sees a people that are His and that He loves dearly.**

He Cherishes You!

Do you recognize this? Do you know, that if you have placed your faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior, that **you are His own possession and He cherishes you? You are not an annoyance that must be tolerated by God. You are a prized possession.** We know this because of the cost involved in our purchase, the life of the Good Shepherd. **How good does it feel to be loved deeply by the God of Creation? It is hard for me to process, and too wonderful for words.**

Jesus is no hired hand, He is our owner, He bought us back from enslavement, to an abundant life.

2. He Knows His Own – He Loves us Intimately

Jesus also tells us that as the Good Shepherd He knows His own. In the allegory that Jesus uses in the first 6 verses He says that the shepherd knows His sheep and calls them by name. Jesus is of course the Shepherd being imaged here. **The statement of calling us by name is one that communicates intimacy.**

Jesus Knows You!

Jesus is stating that He knows His own intimately. His love is an intimate love. **It comes from a place of knowing you. Jesus knows you.**

- He knows you inside and out.
- He knows you better than anyone else.
- He knows you better than you know you.
- He knows your history, the highs and the lows.
- He knows what motivates and drives you.
- He knows what discourages you.
- He knows the number of hairs on your head, the number of breaths you have taken in your life, the number of beats of your heart.
- He knows the pain you are walking through right now.
- He knows the joy that you have experienced recently.
- He knows each of the individual atoms and cells that make up you.

Not a Nameless Face in a Crowd

He knows it all. So know this... **you are not some nameless face in the crowd to Jesus. You are not a mere number to Him. He knows you by name. He doesn't love the idealized idea of you. He loves you.**

- You Sara.
- You Sonic.
- You Keith.
- You Gloria.
- 'You Paula.

All of you. He knows you by name and He loves you intimately, more intimately than you even know possible.

Knows and Still Loves

How sweet is this? This is grace that Jesus would know me, the real me, the inner me, and that He would still call me His own and love me. Jesus is the Good Shepherd.

3. He Gathers from Other Folds – He has a Global Love

As the Good Shepherd Jesus also states that He has sheep that are not of this fold and that He will gather them. When He speaks of “this fold” He is referring to Israel, as His crowd was Jewish. The other fold would be other nations.

The love that Jesus has is a global love, it is a love that includes people from every tribe and tongue. Listen to what John records about Jesus as He prepares to open a scroll only He is fit to open...

Revelation 5:9

[9] And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation,

Jesus is the good Shepherd because His love reaches to every continent on our globe, it reaches to every country, every city, every culture, every people group. This is why we joyfully send families like the Torres’ and the McCowns to people groups on the other side of the globe. The Good Shepherd loves them, intimately. They need the good news!

4. He Lays Down His Life for His Own – His Love is Sacrificial

The most important description of Jesus as the Good Shepherd is one that is repeated in this passage, when Jesus says that He lays down His life for His sheep. The love that Jesus has is a sacrificial love that was willing to travel to lengths that were unimaginable.

Different Than Defending Flock

The shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. Yes, we talked about David fighting off a lion to save his sheep, but that is not an example of laying down your life. He was fighting for his life. Jesus on the other hand laid down His life, meaning He gave it up.

Heart of the Gospel

Could you ever imagine a shepherd choosing to give up his life so that his sheep may live? No sane person would do such a thing. Yet, that is what Jesus did. And this my friends, is the heart of the Gospel message.

- The Creator died for His creation.
- The Author of all of time, space, and matter died for the characters He has written.

Accomplished Something

It was not a symbolic death, it was not merely meant to ignite a movement as many martyr deaths have accomplished, Jesus’ death accomplished something in the moment. Listen to how Peter speaks to this...

1 Peter 2:24-25

[24] He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. [25] For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Healing, Life, and Hope

When He laid down His life for us, He took on our sin, He took on our evil and thus took on the punishment that was due us.

- It is in wounds that we find healing,
- it is in His death that we find life,
- it is in His darkest moment that we find our greatest hope.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd because the love that He shows is an “all in” kind of love. He loves us to the point of immeasurable sacrifice. Jesus told us earlier that He is not a hired hand and this action is proof positive.

Paul writes in Romans 8...

Romans 8:31-32

[31] What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? [32] He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

If Jesus willingly made this kind of sacrifice for us, if God the Father would allow this kind of sacrifice to be made, can we ever question the love of God, **can we ever question that God is for us? No. Never.**

Loved Beyond Measure

Christian, you are loved beyond measure. If you are here tonight and you have not put your faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior, know that you could enter into this kind of love as well. Jesus laid down His life for His sheep and His sheep are any and all who will respond in faith. We encourage to trust Him today.

CONCLUSION – DIVIDING WORDS

So Jesus makes these incredible claims, claims to be the only path to God, claims to give life, claims to be the Good Shepherd who not only lays down His life, but will take it up again on His own, and like so many time before, Jesus’ words divide, just as they continue to do so today.

Responding to Jesus

Some hear Jesus and respond by calling Him crazy or possessed by a demon. **Others hear Jesus and are of His fold, they are of those that the Father has given Him and when He talks they hear the voice of their Good Shepherd as the Spirit draws them and they follow after Jesus.**

How will you respond? I pray you will respond in faith because as Jesus has pointed out, He is the Door, He is the entry point to God, there is no other. Trust Him tonight.

Adore Him

If you have responded in faith, which I know most of you here have your next response ought to be one of adoration. **This is your Savior. He is your refuge. He has come to give you life abundant. He loves you intimately and sacrificially. Revel in this. Bask in this. Enjoy this.**

Define You

May these truths define who you are far more than anything else in this life. May these realities define you more deeply than your bank account, more than what others say about you, more than your appearance, more than your position at work, more than anything else. You are the beloved of God.

Psalm 23

I want to close tonight with a reading of Psalm 23. This passage was written by David of God, describing Him as His Shepherd. After our text tonight we should know that these words were written as a description of Jesus as well.

Psalm 23

[1] The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. [2] He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. [3] He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. [4] Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. [5] You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. [6] Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Let's Pray