

Jesus, The Door and The Good Shepherd
The Gospel of John: That You May Believe | John 10:1-21
Southern Hills Baptist Church
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Introduction: An aspect of John's Gospel that is enjoyed by many are the 7 "I am" statements of Jesus, where Jesus makes clear and significant statements about who He is. These statements provide incredible and beautiful insight into the person and mission of Jesus. Our passage has the 3rd and 4th of these statements. I want to invite you to come and stare deeply at the wonder that is our matchless Savior.

Context: Take note that John 10 continues the story from John 9 where Jesus healed the blind man. Jesus closed out John 9 by explaining who He was to this blind man, but He was only getting started as He goes deeper still in 10:1-21.

Cultural Context – The Communal Sheepfold (vs. 1-6)

- **Shepherding Context** – During the day shepherds took their sheep out to the pasture to graze, but in the evening, to get rest, they would drop them off at a communal sheepfold with other flocks for safe keeping. The shepherd would return in the morning and his sheep would follow him out by the sound of his voice.
- **Word Picture** – Jesus tells a story (allegory) of thieves and the true shepherd, explaining who He is, but like many of His word pictures, it flew over the head of His audience. Verses 7-18 are His gracious explanation.

Jesus, the Only Door (vs. 7-10)

- **As the Door, Jesus is the Only Way to God**
 - **Exclusivity** – Jesus' claim to be "the door" is a claim to exclusivity. He is not a path to God, or one of many, He is THE door, THE path to God. This claim is reminiscent of John 14:6, the way, the truth, the life
 - **Unpopular** – Claims of exclusivity are unpopular in our world. In saying that He is the only way, Jesus is also saying that Mohammed can't save you, the Book of Mormon doesn't have the truth your soul needs, Buddha and Krishna cannot give you eternity, etc.
 - **Unrivaled Resume** – Why do we trust Jesus' word more than anyone else's? His resume is unrivaled. He is the sinless fulfillment of prophecy who rose again from the grave and death!
- **As the Door, Jesus is our Security and Refuge**

- **Safety** – Doors are passage to safety. When in danger we run through them and close them. When danger lurks outside we keep them shut.
- **Safeguarded** – Jesus is our soul's safety. Sin, Satan, Death, they cannot bring any ultimate harm to us when we are in Christ.

- **As the Door, Jesus is our Passage to Provision**

- **Going Out** – Doors are also gateways into the world and provision. Sheep cannot stay in a pen 24/7. They need grass to graze on and water to drink. The door is the gateway out to this provision.
- **Abundant Life** – Jesus tells us He is our pathway to the Abundant Life, the life our souls hunger for, a life full of meaning, purpose, depth, joy, and hope.

Jesus, Our Good Shepherd (vs. 11-21)

- **He is no Hired Hand – An "All In" Love**

- **No Stake** – Hired hands were people hired to watch other people's flock. They had no real skin in the game so they would run at the first sign of danger.
- **His** – Jesus is the opposite of a hired hand. He is completely invested in His sheep. He bought them at an immeasurable cost. We are His and He cares deeply for us.

- **He Knows His Own – An Intimate Love**

- **By Name** – Jesus says He calls His by name, communicating an intimate knowledge of His flock. He knows you deeply. He knows you inside and out. He knows you better than you know you.
- **He Loves You** – You are not a nameless face in a crowd. Jesus doesn't merely love the idea of you. He loves YOU, personally and intimately.

- **He Gathers from Other Folds – A Global Love**

- **Other Folds** – Jesus' love spans to all people, tribes, and tongues. His love is expansive, reaching to all corners of our world (Rev 5:9). Jesus' flock will be made up of all skin colors, languages, and nationalities! Thus, go ye therefore into all the world...

- **He Lays Down His Life for His Sheep – A Sacrificial Love**

- **Heart of the Gospel** – Jesus repeats this truth for emphasis, as the Good Shepherd He lays down His life for the sheep. The Creator dies for creation. The Author sacrifices His life for the characters He had written into life. You are loved beyond measure!
- **Accomplishing Something** – Jesus' death wasn't merely symbolic, it accomplished something, it purchased salvation (1 Pet 2:24-25).