

I am the Door
John 10:1-10
I AM Series

7 Then Jesus said to them again, “Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. **8** All who *ever* came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear 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 does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be an Animal.

A) Ever since we got our dog – I have often looked at him/wondered what it would be like to be **Reddington**.

B) I wish you could talk – and tell me what you are thinking- **Stares at me**.

1) **I probably don't want to know what he is thinking**

C) **Did you ever think as a Kid** – If I could be an animal I would want to be _____. **Lion – KING OF THE JUNGLE.**

Lion Walking thru the Jungle – sees a tiger -
Roars

Who is the King of the Jungle – Tiger you are /
Saw a Monkey..... you are

ElephantPicks him up by the trunk –
throws against a tree - Sits on him –

Lion says – just because you don't know the answer, you don't have to be so Mean

I Used to think: If I could be an Eagle: **Soaring High – Incredible vision**

A) An eagle's eye is almost as large as a human's, but its sharpness is 4-8 times that of a human w/ perfect vision.

B) An eagle flying at an altitude of 1000 feet over open country could spot prey over an area of almost **3 square miles from a fixed position**.

C) **Bald eagles** are capable of seeing fish under water while flying several hundred feet above the water.

D) Or I would want to be a **Dolphin – Coolest Swimming** – catching waves – SO SMART

1) And Sharks don't like Dolphins –

E) **Majestic Horse – The Black Stallion** –
Running through the meadows

Well when God chooses an Animal to compare us to – He didn't choose a Lion – Dolphin or an Eagle.

A) He didn't even choose a dog, a Horse or even a Cat.

B) **He choose Sheep** – and I am sure that no one here dreamt of being a Sheep.

1) **Sure Cute – Furry** – But sheep are also one of the Dumbest animals on the planet.

C) Sheep are great at following the leader - right over a cliff.

True story: One day when some Shepherds were eating breakfast outside the town of Gevas Turkey.

A) Suddenly surprised when they saw a lone sheep jump off of a nearby cliff and fall to its death.

B) They were absolutely stunned wwhen the rest of the nearly 1,500 sheep in the herd followed, each leaping off of the same cliff.

C) One dumb sheep decided to jump off a cliff – and all his buddies – said – looks like fun

D) When it was all over, the local Aksam newspaper reported that **"450 of the sheep perished in a billowy, white pile"**

(those that jumped from the middle and end of the herd were saved as the pile became higher and the fall more cushioned).

That story illustrates the fact that Sheep NEED A SHEPHERD!

A) That is the **analogy that God uses** in choosing the animal that he is going to compare us to.

B) In doing so Jesus touches on another one of the **deepest longings in the heart of man** – the **Longing to belong**.

1) Deep in the heart of everyone of us is this longing to be loved – to BELONG – FOR COMMUNITY

2015 ABC special report - Reason people get into Gangs – Testimony

I joined a gang, called “Folk Nation,” to have a sense of belonging. I believed that my involvement in a gang was my security of a family. The gang became my family.

A) A reason many people Join teams/ They want to belong

B) Same thing people are looking for when they join a Church

1) I want to fit in and belong and find my purpose.

C) A struggle that people have with loneliness.

D) NOW I am one of those rare individuals who doesn't mind being alone – Introvert –

1) But not all the time.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) Published a study in the *American Sociological Review (ASR)*

“1 in 4 Americans said that they have no one with whom they can talk about their personal troubles or triumphs.

If family members are not counted, the number doubles to more **than half of Americans** who have no one outside their immediate family with whom they can share confidences.” –

People have 1,000 friends on Facebook – but very lonely

2015 Time Magazine Article – “Loneliness leading to more Suicides”

“Many social scientists say technology and housing trends are increasing the risk of loneliness. More Americans are living alone than ever before, and technology like texting and social media has made it easier to avoid forming substantive relationships in the flesh and blood.”

Not created to live like that! - The Bible says that man has been created in the image of God.

A) Theologians called – **Imago Dei** – man was uniquely created by God different from all of creation.

B) One Unique aspect of our make up and design is we have been made to live in Relationships

1) To Belong: **To give love and receive love**

God seeks to address that deep inner longing by inviting man to be a part of his family!

A) Ultimate in belonging!

B) Today we are looking at I Am statement #3 – **I AM THE DOOR!**

1) Next week back here in John 10 - **#4 I Am the Good Shepherd.**

C) In both of these analogies Jesus uses the backdrop of the Sheepfold to illustrate **How** we can come to belong to God's family

1) And the importance of finding **our identity** in Jesus and nothing else.

Today we will Learn of the entry point of being in God's Family

A) as well of **the benefits** of being in God's family

B) We will consider this all through the lens of **THE SHEPHERD AND HIS SHEEP!**

Jesus often taught in Parables or with Pictures: This is a good example of that.

A) Sheep herding was a common and familiar picture to the people of Israel –

B) Traveling across Israel – easy to see in any open field a shepherd walking with his Sheep!

C) **Wool from Sheep was a precious commodity** especially for the cold winters

1) And of course – the Sacrificing a sheep was a huge part of the worship system in Israel.

Jesus begins in v.1 by talking about entrance into the sheepfold.

A) The purpose of the sheepfold was for protection especially at night – prowlers / wild animals

B) Shepherds kept their sheep in two kinds of sheepfolds

- 1) Out in the plains – Cave – Rocks – thick brush
- 2) Anything that they could make into an enclosure.

C) In town – Communal sheepfold fenced in with a gate keeper --

D) It is this Communal sheepfold that Jesus is referencing here in these opening verses.

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. 2 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

4 And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. 5 Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." 6 Jesus used this illustration, but they did not understand the things which He spoke to them.

Picture the scene: In sheep herding country – shepherd goes to town to get supplies –

A) There was a fenced in area – he would take his sheep – but all the shepherds went there and dropped their sheep off

B) They would do their business/ visit friends – they might stay a couple of days

1) There was someone hired to watch the gate.

V.3 DOORKEEPER

C) He would only open the gate to the Shepherds – anyone else coming – find another way

1) Thieves, robbers – come in the back way or under the fence – take

Now in that communal sheepfold you might have 100's of sheep belonging to different shepherds

A) How would they sort out who's was who's ?

B) The sheep know the voice of their shepherd.

C) Talk to anyone who has been around sheep this is an interesting Phenomena –

1) Sheep recognize the voice of the Shepherd – He calls they come.

2) Special calls and sayings – HEY that is my guy!

D) Now Someone else or some other shepherd might use the same Phrase – { Sheep don't move.

1) But when their shepherd calls – they respond. Because they know His voice – THE TONE

A part time Youth pastor who had just graduated from Seminary in the city – went to visit a sheep ranch where two of his students lived.

The sheep Rancher liked the youth pastor and saw an opportunity to give the young man an important Biblical lesson there on the farm. So he asked the youth Pastor if he could – help him call in the sheep.

The Youth pastor said sure- sounds fun – What do I do ? Just call them ? Anything special you say.....

"I just say, 'Hey, sheep! C'mon in!'"

No Sweat – so he called out – rather softly – the sheep didn't budge or even turn their heads –

The Rancher – told him, "You are 75 yards away, down wind, and they have their backs to you. Yell! Use your diaphragm, like they teach you in preaching class."

So he took a deep breath and put every inch of stomach muscle into a yell that revival preachers around the world would envy: "Hey, sheep! C'mon in!"

The sheep still didn't move an inch. None even turned an ear.

The Rancher smiled and said sarcastically. "Do they teach you the Bible in that seminary? Have you ever read, 'My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me'?"

And raising his voice only slightly, he said: "Hey, sheep! C'mon in!" All 50 sheep turned and came running.

The Rancher seized the moment to give this word. "Now, don't you ever forget," he said. "You are the shepherd to my kids."

The picture JESUS is painting in saying the sheep know the voice of the shepherd, illustrates the familiarity that is developed over time.

I know my wife's voice! - Been together 30 years - hear her talking in a crowded room!

A) I know her tones - Happy, sad - Sighs - stressed or relaxed-

B) I know her laugh - snorts - so cute.

1) Developed that familiarity over time

C) Jesus is telling us - those who walk with HIM and follow HIM - come to know HIS voice. - TONE -

1) They know HIS heart - they know that they can trust HIM - WHICH is why they follow HIM!

C) Who's voice do you know? O'Reilly? Rush? Beck?

1) Cooper, Maddox, Moyer ?

Listen, People who don't know JESUS' voice - struggle.

A) They Don't trust Him - so they don't follow Him completely - always one foot somewhere else

B) They Compartmentalize their lives - Jesus is included in some parts but not others.

1) Jesus doesn't influence their work, their politics, their budgets.

C) And They always have a backup plan - just in case the Lord doesn't come through.

D) If I just described your life - Know this: JESUS Has so much more for you!

E) Those who don't know His voice - Miss out on so much because they don't fully trust Him!

They rarely are like Peter - who climbed out of the boat in the midst of the storm. Walked on Water

A) What would possess a man to do such a thing? He recognized that VOICE!

B) Be of good courage it is I - Come Peter

C) Peter walked on water and was doing great until he took his eyes off of JESUS

D) Those who know his voice - Surrender all - those who know His voice - Live by faith - take risk

1) Follow with a whole heart!

E) How do we learn His Voice? - Gospels - see heart listen for the tone

1) All scripture is inspired His Story

2) It is HIS SPIRIT in your hearts - BECOMES FAMILIAR. - never contradict HIS WORD!

So in the Communal Sheepfold in a town setting- There is Doorkeeper of the sheep pen who opens the door only to the Shepherd Shepherd - Calls... And the sheep hear his voice and know his voice. {Analogy in v.1-6

A) V.7 Jesus changes the Picture - Here he gives us I AM Statement #3

Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them.

B) Now Jesus takes us from the town setting out into the planes out into the wild.

1) In that setting here is what would happen -

C) At Night time the Shepherd would look for a place to settle - He would create a Makeshift sheepfold

1) Area surrounded by Rocks / thick Brush / even a Cave.

D) Sheep gathered in – the shepherd would lay or sit across the entry way.

He would literally become THE DOOR –

A) No sheep could get past him – NO PREDATOR – could get around him

B) The only way that anyone or anything was getting into or out of that sheepfold was THRU HIM!

C) This is the analogy that Jesus uses to illustrate belonging to Him and being HIS SHEEP!

FINISH our time today by talking about two things we learn about belonging to God from this Picture

#1 The way to God is simple.

A) A "door" speaks of easy ingress!

B) God offers a door – **not a Maze!** – Not running through life trying to find the right path

C) There are no difficult walls which have to be scaled before the anxious sinner can obtain access to God.

Crystal Clear – There is a Door and ONLY ONE DOOR! – I for one really appreciate that!

A) SIRI FOR DIRECTIONS – I DON'T WANT 20 options - - Gives the quickest route

B) People try to say: Many ways – many doors –

Oprah – Oprah is what theologians would call a Universalist. **Universalism is a theology** that believes that all human beings will be saved, regardless of their religion or which God/god the person believes in.

"I believe God is in all things," and then denying that Jesus is the only way of salvation she has said,

"One of the mistakes that human beings make is believing that there is only one way...there are many paths to what you call God."

Jesus has clearly identified himself as the Door – the point of entrance into RELATIONSHIP W/ GOD

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven, given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

A) One simple step and those who are on the outside are **ABLE TO STEP IN.** – Thru JESUS

B) How Can Jesus be so DEFINITIVE?

Revelation 1:18 **I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.**

C) Who can say that – I was dead now I am alive? –

What world leader? What religious leader – Dead – 3 days gone

A) Risen! – Alive – Only Jesus

B) Predicted His death – Predicted His Resurrection { **AND DID JUST THAT**

C) That is why Jesus **CAN SAY: I AM THE DOOR – NOT A DOOR – THE DOOR!**

A door open for any man!

A) Jesus indicates this in verse 9: **"I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.**

B) There is a place in the Sheepfold of God for every man – entrance is easy – the Door – just have to enter.

C) The soul that believes Christ paid our debt – Cross for us **OUR SIN - 3 days later ROSE - LIFE**

1) **EMBRACE THAT ABOUT JESUS – that is the door!**

D) **SO FIRST – THE WAY IS SIMPLE**

#2 He describes the benefits for those who come. 2 things

1ST Jesus says that anyone who enters in will be saved.

Saved from What?

1. **Penalty of Sin – Jesus paid**
2. **Power of sin – Set free from BONDAGE**
3. **Presence of Sin – Future - HEAVEN**

2nd They are satisfied: They go in and out and find Pasture.

A) Finding pasture speaks of being sustained and satisfied

B) This is a beautiful description of the Shepherd's care and leading

1) Where ever He leads me – Satisfied

C) David addressed this in Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

I have need of NOTHING –

➤ **NEEDS VS WANTS - Distinction**

Philippians 4:19

“And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

Need of Salvation: Forgiveness – Assurance

Need of Guidance –

Need of Friendship - Intimacy

Need of Provision: -

WE HAVE THE HOLY SPIRIT

DAVID CONTINUES

**² He makes me to lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside the still waters.**

³ He restores my soul;

JESUS WANTS ME TO FIND MY SATISFACTION IN HIM

1 Peter 5:7 “casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”

HE GIVES THIS CONTRAST

¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

SATAN IS THE THIEF - Kill, Rob, Destroy –

Jesus says: I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

Interesting thing in Israel – Never see a Shepherd driving the sheep - Cattle from behind

Shepherd leads – out in front – walking – sheep follow

If you ever see sheep being Driven: Butcher – Slaughter house – LAMB CHOPS

SATAN IS LIKE THE BUTCHER – DRIVING people in an endless quest – Find Satisfaction –

A) End Game is destruction

B) Jesus the Good Shepherd – Says – I AM THE DOOR

C) COME TO GIVE LIFE –

1) LIFE MORE ABUNDANTLY!