

I Am the Door

John 10:1-10

I AM Series

“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.

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. PRAY

I want to begin today by showing you a picture of one of the most Famous doors in the world.

A)Anyone recognize this door?

B)It's the entry door to one of the most famous residences in the world:

C)10 Downing Street, the home of the British prime minister .

D)Benjamin Disraeli, Winston Churchill, Margaret Thatcher, and Tony Blair

1)have all lived behind that door .

E)This particular door was designed in 1772, made of thick, beautiful black oak

1)with these big Georgian panels,

Now what you are looking at in this picture is no longer the original 1772 door,

A)Because in 1991, an IRA pipe bomb that was detonated a few hundred yards down the street

B)convinced the British government to replace the historic wooden door with a bulletproof replica.

C)So, what you're looking at in this picture looks like beautiful English black oak,

1)but it's actually blast-proof steel.

D)And the little gold letter box no longer works—

1)they don't want people to be able to slide in little bombs or anything.

And, if you look closely, you'll see that there's no longer a keyhole in this door

A)And that little doorknob there in the middle doesn't turn.

B)Now The door can only be opened, from the inside.

C)And the security guard who stands just inside the door

1)opens it only to those the prime minister wants to let in.

D)Yes The Door at 10 Downing street is one of the most famous doors in the World

But the Most important door is the one we are considering in our text today.

A)John Chapter 10 brings us to the 3rd of the Seven I AM statements of Jesus

B)Jesus Declares 2X in these verses - I am the Door – beginning in V.7

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.

C)In and out – maybe this was the inspiration.. ☺

Doors or Gates are a Big deal in Scripture. – You have probably never done a study on it

A)But you might consider doing so

B)In the Book of Genesis we are told that after Adam and Eve Sinned

C)Angels were placed at the entry Gate to the Garden of Eden with flaming swords barring entry

D)God didn't want man to eat from the tree of life and be forever in their sinful condition

Then there was the door to Noah's Ark –

A)Noah built an Ark to save his family and the animals ...flood

B)And once Noah and his family and all the Animals were in the Ark –

1)God himself shut the door before the rain came down

In the book of Exodus the Children of Israel were instructed to put the blood of an innocent lamb

A)On the Door post of their house

B)Everyone who went IN through that door their first born was protected from the Angel of death

1)By the Blood of the Lamb – picture of Jesus

C)Then all who were in the house came OUT through that same door

1)into the freedom God had for them

D)In for protection and out into Freedom that is what Jesus is promising here

Gates into the Tabernacle and Temple Courtyards

A)Doorway into the Holy place in the temple and the Holy of Holies

B)There was a large thick Veil between those two rooms – Only the HP – day of atonement....

C)Gates surrounding the city of Jerusalem

D)Doors/Gates are important in the Bible

Doors are important entry points into places

A)Here is John 10 Jesus is using an analogy that would be very familiar to his Jewish listeners

B)The Doorway or entry way into the Sheepfold

C)We will be in this same text Next week Pastor Jason teaches on I am Statement #4

1)Jesus declares I am the Good Shepherd

In both of these analogies Jesus uses the back drop of the Sheepfold

A)To illustrate How we can come to belong to God's family

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

Jesus often taught in Parables or with Pictures:

A)He would use something familiar with his listeners to illustrate an important spiritual truth

B)This text is a good example of that.

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

D)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.

E)If you were Traveling across Israel in those days –

1)It would be easy to see in any open field a shepherd walking with his Sheep!

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

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

B)Now Shepherds kept their sheep in two kinds of sheepfolds

C)In town there was Communal sheepfold – shared by many flocks –

1)Had a hired Gatekeeper

D)Outside of town: The Countryside Sheepfold Cave – Rocks – thick brush

1)Anything that they could make into an enclosure.

E)Now It is this Communal sheepfold that the 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 dropped sheep off {parking garage for sheep

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 DOOR KEEPER

C) The Doorkeeper- would only open the gate to the Shepherds –

1) Thieves/ robbers – would try to come in the back way or under the fence – take the sheep

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 Phenomenon

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

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

E) 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, downwind, 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 like revival preachers around the world: "Hey, sheep! C'mon in!"

The sheep still didn't move an inch. None even turned an ear. The Rancher smiled and said sarcastically.

"Don't they teach you the Bible in that seminary? Have you never 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."

That is the picture JESUS is painting in saying the sheep know the voice of the shepherd,

A) Illustrates the familiarity and that is developed over time.

B) In the same way: I know my wife's voice – We have been married 39 yrs

1) I can recognize her voice in a crowded room

C) I know the Tone of her voice – she calls my name – a tone – I am in trouble she is frustrated

D) Another tone – she is so happy to see me

I know her sighs – Happy – or stressed

A) I know her laugh – snorts - so cute.

B) Why do I know that about my wife – We have been together a long time

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 –

D) They know HIS heart – they know that they can trust HIM – WHICH is why they follow HIM!

E) Question - Whose voice do you know? Whose voice are you tuned into.

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 back up plan – just in case the Lord doesn't come through.

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

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

So in the Communal Sheepfold in town – the shepherd would lead the sheep in – to be watched

A) And he would lead them out – by calling them and they recognized his voice

B) But then in V.7 Jesus changes the analogy from the communal sheepfold in town

C) To the countryside sheepfold out in the planes –

In that setting here is what would happen –

A) At Night time the Shepherd would look for a place to settle – He would create a Make shift sheepfold

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

C) 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 getting into or out of that sheepfold was THRU HIM!

C) Now sometimes thieves would try to sneak in

D) They would climb over the Rock wall or the brush and try to steal the sheep while they were sleeping

E) Now getting over the wall was easy – but getting the sheep out was the problem

1) Sheep are heavy

So it was near impossible to get the Sheep with their fat rear ends over the wall

A) without them making a lot of noise

B) Let go of me you Baaaaaaaad man ☺

Here is what this story teaches us about Jesus #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 –

C) Jesus is the Door. He's the one gateway back into the presence of God.

Just like there was one entry point into Noah's ark

A) through which Noah and his family could enter the shelter of the ark and be saved,

B) and just like there was one way to safely enter the temple courtyard, to the altar of Sacrifice

C) and just like there was only one entry into HP

And just like there was only one entry point into the Holy of Holies—

A) The Bible tells us that the Large thick Veil that hung in the Temple – between HP and HH

B) 60 feet tall – 30 feet wide – 4-5 inches thick

1) According to Jewish tradition it took 300 priests to hang the thing

C) It was more of a Wall than a door

One day out of the whole year the Day of Atonement

A)the High Priest and only the HP -could enter and only with the blood of a sacrifice in his hand—

B)But when Jesus Died on the Cross – It is Finished!

C)That Viel was torn in two – top to bottom – creating a door –

The Viel was symbolic of the fact that Jesus' torn body

A)Was now the entryway back into the presence of God. OPEN HOUSE

B)YOU CAN COME – through the Door that is my Son

C)His blood was sprinkled on the heavenly mercy seat so that we could come back into God's presence.

And remember how I told you that when Adam and Eve were driven out of the presence of God

A)After they sinned in the Garden of Eden

B)And God had put angels with flaming swords in front of the garden to bar their entry,

C)Well images of those angels were put over the mercy seat on the Ark of the Covenant—

Well, a little detail that John includes about the Resurrection that most people overlook

A)Is that when Mary first got to the tomb,

¹² And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. John 20:12

B)Two angels! One at the head and one at the feet.

C)Do you see what's being recreated? Jesus' resurrected body is the new mercy seat.

D)He'd taken the flaming sword of God's judgment in our place,

E)And now he's the door through which we can reenter God's Presence

1)and we are invited through Jesus to come boldly to the throne of grace for help anytime we need it.

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 3 days later - DID JUST THAT

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

D)There is only one Door and God has made it clear
1)anyone who thinks they can get in some other way will face a terrible judgment

#2 A Door to 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 –
1)just have to enter by faith

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 – THE WAY IS SIMPLE – It is a Door open for anyone who wants to enter – through faith

#3 Consider the Benefits for those who enter - *anyone enters* by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

A) First notes Jesus says – anyone who enters will be saved.

B) Saved from the Penalty of sin – Jesus paid the price

C) Saved from the power of sin – No longer having to live in bondage sinful lust and desires

D) One day saved from the presence of sin
HEAVEN

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

A) Finding pasture speaks of being sustained and satisfied

B) That is a beautiful description of the Shepherds care for His Sheep – Satisfied

C) David addressed this in Psalm 23 The LORD *is* my shepherd; I shall not want.

1) I have need of NOTHING – He takes care of us

Philippians 4:19 “And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

D) Needs vs Wants – There is a difference

Note the Powerful Contrast Jesus makes in V.10

A) 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.

B) Satan The thief wants to steal your Joy – kill your peace – he wants to destroy you ultimately

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

D) SATAN IS LIKE THE BUTCHER – DRIVING People in an endless quest – Find Satisfaction –

1) His End Game is destruction

He is doing that with some of you right now –

A) Taking you down a path – barren – no substance

B) Chasing things that will never satisfy you – Keeping you from the only one who will

C) But Jesus says to you today: I have come that you might have life – more abundantly

D) Abundant life is found in living in relationship with Jesus

E) Made to live in relationship with God – Know him walk with him

1) A Life – Purpose - Blessing

I want to close today by keying in on the phrase they will go in and out and find pasture

A) The shepherd would lead the sheep into the sheepfold at night

B) The Sheep would sleep in the sheepfold – Place for Rest and protection

C) But then in the day He would lead them out – for exercise – or to take them places

D) Winter months lowlands – Summer – Mts – go through a Valley -

In the Christian life there is an Interior life and an Exterior life.

A) The interior life speaks of our intimacy with God

B) Place of rest – place of communion – we come together at Church – Worship / Study

C) This is a picture of the sheepfold – Connect with the Lord corporately

But then he seeks to lead us out of here into the world outside.

A) Outside of here is where our faith gets exercised

B) Outside of here He is taking us places – opportunities to SHINE FOR HIM

C) Opportunities to affect others and introduce others to our Good Shepherd

Philip Keller – Shepherd looks ... Psalm 23 – A Shepherd looks at the Good shepherd... sheep

A) He was a shepherd in Africa – He gave an interesting insight

B) Eastern Shepherds would often take their sheep into an area where there were wayward sheep

1) Let them graze near the wayward sheep

C)At the end of the day – Call his sheep to follow

1)The wayward sheep would come to

Jesus does that with us – He leads us out into our world – to live for him

A)To show a confused and hurting world – what a Christian marriage looks like

B)What it means to live as people who are living for others not ourselves

C)To show people what it means to love people who don't agree with us / different from us

D)To show people the right way to stand for what we believe is true.

Jesus told his disciples – I sent you out as lambs among wolves

A)Meaning there is going to be a stark contrast in the way that we live our lives

B)Jesus our Good Shepherd does that because He knows our lives can have a contagious effect on

1)A hurting and confused World

C)Note this: he leads us in to the sheepfold – into intimacy and communion

D)Coming in is the Key to him lead us out

E)We learn to hear his voice – We come to understand his heart – ways

1)IN is the starting place

Some of you Jesus is wanting to lead you into his presence- I am the Door – come through me

A)Saved –

B)Some of you here – Already saved – Jesus is wanting to lead you OUT this week

1)Into your Purpose

C)Question: Are you willing to be lead

D)That is the Key to experiencing the abundant life – Being led by Jesus