

Lesson 4

I Am the Door

John 10:9

“I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.”

The context of John 10 is about sheep. When Jesus said, “I am the door”, He was using a common picture to communicate spiritual truth. The terminology He uses is shepherd speak – pastoral parlance. In John 10 sheep terms are used repeatedly. The words sheep-fold, shepherd, pasture, flock, sheep and fold are used over 25 times.

The similarity of people to sheep is an analogy that is used throughout the Bible. So when the Bible says, “All we like sheep have gone astray” (Isa.53:6) that’s Baaaaad! When Jesus compared us to sheep, He described us pretty well. Like sheep, we are helpless without the Shepherd.

Throng followed Jesus throughout the towns and villages in Galilee and when He saw them “He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.” (Matt.9:36) That’s not a compliment but a concern, because sheep are so helpless.

Phillip Keller was a sheep rancher and in his book, “A Shepherd Looks at the 23rd Psalm,” he says that sheep require more attention than any other livestock. They just can’t take care of themselves. For example, unless their shepherd makes them move on, sheep will actually ruin a pasture... they’ll eat every blade of grass, until a fertile pasture is nothing but barren soil...

Sheep are near-sighted and very stubborn, but easily frightened... They have little means of defense... They’re timid, feeble creatures... Their only defense is to run from their predator... Sheep have no homing instincts... a dog, horse, cat, or a bird can find its way home, but a lost sheep is a lost sheep.

Like a shepherd, Jesus is concerned about our well being – He wants to take care of His sheep – for The Good, Great and Chief Shepherd loves His sheep. With the picture of sheep fresh in our minds, let us look at the context of Jesus’ statement: “I am the door. In what way does Jesus’ statement “I Am the door” apply to us personally?

I. HE IS THE DOOR OF ENTRY.

A. The Door Who Is Jesus, Extends An Invitation – “If anyone enters.” In Luke 13:24

Jesus said, "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door..." That, from Him, is an invitation. In Matthew 7, Jesus says, "Enter through the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it."

The Door, Who is Jesus, presently is open. To avail ourselves of His offer of salvation we must enter. The gate that gives access to the narrow way is presently open. Jesus uses the word "enter" four times in the above verses. He said, "Make every effort to enter" (Luke 13:34) Jesus is open for business for lost and/or straying sinners and He says, "Come unto me, all you that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matt. 11:28)

B. The Door Who Is Jesus, Demands A Decision – a decision to enter or not enter.

When we see a door, we understand that we have a decision to make – walk through it or not. Since Jesus says, "enter" we must come to a decision.

The writer of Hebrews says of certain ones, "they could not enter in because of unbelief" (Heb. 3:19). And, again he writes, "we who have believed do enter that rest" (Heb. 4:3). Yet, again he says, "Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest" (Heb. 4:11) The eternal rest in Christ Jesus demands that we make the decision to "enter."

C. The Door Who Is Jesus, Is Singular. "I am the door."

He is not just "a" door, but "The" door. There was only one door in Noah's Ark for salvation from the flood. There is but one door to Heaven and Jesus is that door.

The eastern sheepfold had but one door; there was only one way for the sheep to get in and out. It was through this exclusive opening, this single door that the sheep must pass. When Jesus said "I am the Door" we are to understand that He is the only door. He did not say "I am one of many doors. We are to further understand that we either enter through the door Christ Jesus or forever remain outside! What a horrible prospect that is.

He is the door singularly. He is the only entrance to the Father's house! Jesus said, "I am the door" twice - in verse 7 and He repeats it in verse 9. Luke writes in Acts 4:12 "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

I have heard people say, when confronted with the gospel, “Well, you go your way and I’ll go my way.” It is not a matter of your way or my way. It is which way is God’s way!

Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” (John 14:6) Considering further the metaphor that Jesus uses we are to see:

II. HE IS THE DOOR OF SECURITY.

Said He: “If anyone enters through me, he shall be saved” (v. 9). There is security in Jesus, The Door. This is His divine promise. The purpose of the sheepfold was to secure the sheep. When we enter the Door, Who is the Lord Jesus, our Shepherd, we are secure in His fold.

In the book of Ezekiel God says of His people Israel, “I will feed them in good pasture, and their fold shall be on the high mountains of Israel. There they shall lie down in a good fold” (Ezekiel 34:14). What is said of His people Israel is true for His people today for He has the safety and security of His sheep in all ages in mind.

Jesus is the Door to His flock’s safety, His family’s security. How does he secure us? Right here in John 10 He guarantees the safety and security of those who enter in through Himself, The Door. **Notice that we are kept secure:**

A. By His Person. v. 27-28 “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.”

Jesus uses 6 pronouns here in those two verses emphasizing that it is the sheep’s Shepherd who is the sheep’s security, not the sheepfold! Some have said that the church is the sheepfold and we understand such an analogy and are free to make that application if we desire, however, no church anywhere saves or secures. That only our Savior Shepherd can do.

B. By His Promise. V.28 “and they will never perish.” A promise is only as good as the one who makes the promise. When we put our trust in Jesus Christ for salvation and security we are trusting the One Who is Ultimate Trustworthiness.

C. In His Palm. v. 28-29 “and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. (John 10:27-29)

The word “indemnity” is an insurance term. It means “Insured against loss”. In Christ we have triple indemnity! Our eternal destiny is forever secured by our Savior’s Person, Promise and Palm!

Ah, but that is not all that He, as The Door is. Furthermore,

III. HE IS THE DOOR OF LIBERTY

“I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out” (John 10:9). Perfect liberty is given to us: "...and shall go in and out..." Back in chapter 8 of John’s Gospel, the Lord Jesus said, "you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). **This liberty provides us with:**

A. Access. “and shall go *in*” – not only for guardianship, but also for fellowship and worship.

1. “Let us therefore **come boldly** to the throne of grace.” (Heb. 4:16)
2. “**Enter into His gates** with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations. (Ps 100:4-5)

B. Egress. “shall go in and *out*” – for mission and ministry.

1. We have a mission: “other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring...” (John 10:16).
2. “He that goes forth and weeping, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.” (Ps 126:6)

Whether it is “sheep” or “sheaves” the principle is the same! We should “go out” and “bring them in.” He gives us the liberty to do that. There is no other door that leads to such an abundance of provisions as the Door Christ Jesus! But there is yet more:

IV. HE IS THE DOOR OF PLENTY.

This last phrase in John 10:9 must not be ignored: "...and find pasture." This pasture is abundant for in John 10:10 our Shepherd said, “I am come that they might have life and they might have it more abundantly” or “in abundance” as some translations have it.

Plentitude is promised if we enter through Jesus, The Door. Ample provision is assured. The opening words of Psalm 23 bears this out, “The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.”

I shall not want:

A. I Shall Not Want For Abundant Supply!

“still waters” – “green pastures” – “table before me” – “anoints my head with oil”

B. I Shall Not Want For Abounding Sufficiency!

Psalm 23 says, “My cup runs over”. In Christ there is more and better life than ever dreamed of. Yes, He has plenty of:

- Grace for every trial;
- Strength for every task;
- Wisdom for every decision;
- Courage for every battle;
- Light in every dark place;
- Comfort in every sorrow;
- Encouragement in every disappointment;
- Sustenance for every daily need!

C. I Shall Not Want For An Abode For Eternity. “I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.” We enter the door of that house here on earth when we enter the Door Christ Jesus. Let us move from John’s Gospel to John’s final revelation of Jesus and look at the last door.

V. HE IS THE DOOR TO ECSTASY.

We read in Rev. 4:1-3 the following:

“After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, “Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this.” Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne. And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald.”

The scene here is the Throne Room in heaven. What a scene! Here we are in the place of Eternal ecstasy! Ecstasy means “a state of joy or rapture” and that is the state that awaits all who enter the Door Christ Jesus!

A. It Is The Place Of Ultimate Joy.

Matt 25:21-22 “Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of the Lord.”

B. It Is The Place Of Unending Rest.

Rev 14:13 "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.' 'Yes,' says the Spirit, 'that they may rest from their labors.'"

C. It Is The Place Of Unexpected Delights.

Rev. 22:14 “Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.”

CONCLUSION

1. When Jesus said, “I am the door” He was opening up to us the opportunity for life on the highest plane. We can enter and be one of His flock or remain outside and remain a lost sheep.
2. Please do not overlook the **BIG “IF” in John 10!** Jesus said, “**If** anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.” Have you entered?

HE IS THE DOOR, BUT HE KNOCKS AT OUR DOOR!

“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.” (Revelation 3:20)

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