

## **Jesus the Door**

### **John 10:7-10**

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. NKJV

In the middle of this discourse on Jesus being the Good Shepherd Jesus also introduces another simile. He compares Himself to a door. The door to the sheepfold. He further develops the idea of a sheepfold, a place of safety for the sheep with a door and a doorkeeper, Himself being the true shepherd of the sheep, into the concept that He is the very door of the sheepfold.

What Jesus is saying here implies several things that we want to talk about today in the message.

- I. Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.
  - A. He claims exclusively. "The." As a Savior Christ stands alone, shares His honors with no colleague, not even with a Moses, far less with a Zoroaster, Confucius, Mohammed, angel, virgin, priest, or pope.
    1. The ancient city of Troy had but one door. You could go round the city a hundred times but if you would go in there was but one door.
    2. Noah built the ark according to pattern given to him by God and there many rooms but only one door. And when God shut the door, the door was shut.
    3. Jn 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
    4. Ac 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."
    5. 1 Tim 2:5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, NKJV
  - B. Doors let people in and keep people out.
    1. But Jesus offers a open door to all those who will come on His terms.
    2. If someone does not get into the sheepfold it will be their own fault.
    3. Years ago a man showed up out at the lake to go fishing. We have always been pretty lenient on those who we allow to fish. But when the Nancy asked him to move his car do a different spot so that she could get out, he informed her that she did not own the land but was just renting. At that point she told him that she did own the land and now he could park his car on the blacktop and he had better not be fishing on us.

4. People think that they can come to Christ and they, not Him will set down the conditions. What fools. It is His sheepfold and He is the only door.

II. If anyone enters by Me

A. There are some things that will not get you into the sheepfold.

1. One does not enter through the law or obedience.
2. One does not enter through baptism and church membership.
  - a. If you have ever done any mechanic work you know that there is an order to putting things back together.
  - b. If you put something on that is in the way of putting something else together, you will be doing some disassembly before you can finish putting things completely together.
  - c. Baptism and church membership are commanded in the New Testament, but if you get them before repentance and faith and the new birth, then they have to be done over again to be affective.

B. This is describing Jesus as the door of acceptance with the Father.

1. Jn 14:6 No one comes to the Father except through Me.
2. Tell the story of the father and son who had collected a fortune in great paintings. The son had to go off to war and was killed in battle. Some time later a young man came to give his regards to the father. He had been a companion of his son in the fighting. Once he had taken the time to paint a crude portrait of the young man and now offered it to the father as a token of friendship the two had had. Years later when the old man died, he had given specific instructions to the auction house that would sell his priceless works of art. When everyone arrived for the sale they walked through the mansion viewing the priceless pieces. But above the mantle in the most conspicuous place was the painting that the young soldier had done of the son. The auctioneer told everyone that this painting would be the first to be sold. But no one wanted to bid on such a crude painting of an unknown subject by and unknown artist. So the auctioneer could get no bids no matter how he tried. Soon the men became impatient telling the auctioneer that they had not come to bid on such a painting and that he should move on to the great works of art. Finally the caretaker who had known and loved the son of the old man said he did not have much but he would give \$25 for the painting. The auctioneer tried but could get no further bids, so it was sold to the caretaker. When the auctioneer and finished with going, going, gone, the crowd was anxious to move on, but the auctioneer began to pack up his things. He told them that the boy's painting was the only painting to be sold there today as per the old man's instructions. Then the

auctioneer told them the secret that he could not reveal before. The instructions had been quite direct. He who takes the son gets it all.

3. Friend that is the sentiments of the heavenly Father. If you will not enter into the sheepfold through His dear Son then you will not enter at all. And those who take the Son get all the rest without cost.
4. How foolish that people might suppose that they can discount the precious sacrifice of love which the Father gave in sending His Son to die for sinners and then those sinners are bold enough to suppose they will trample the love and Christ and still enter the sheepfold.

III. He will be saved.

- A. Because that salvation is based on what God has done through Jesus Christ it can be sure.
  1. If you pay for something on the instalment plan you are always in danger of losing it.
  2. But Jesus paid the price once for all.
- B. You can be sure today that you have entered the heavenly fold and are secure.
- C. We find in this passage that the sheep follow only the shepherd and therefore are secure by their attachment to Him.

IV. He will go in and out.

- A. The idea is that of access to the shelter of the sheepfold.
- B. The security is in Jesus.
  1. Dt 28:6 Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.
  2. 1Ki 3:7 Now, O Lord my God, You have made Your servant king instead of my father David, but I am a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in.
  3. Ps 121:8 The Lord shall preserve your going out and your coming in From this time forth, and even forevermore.
- C. In Jesus day the idea of coming in and going out without fear meant that his country was a peace and that the ruler had the affairs of the nation under control.

V. He will find pasture.

- A. This is the idea of being satisfied.
  1. Palestine is a barren land with little grazing land.
  2. The idea here is that they will lack nothing good.

3. They accept the love and care of the shepherd.
  - B. Is anyone satisfied any more.
  - C. In Jesus we can be satisfied, filled by the blessings that He provides us.
- VI. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.
- A. Unlike the thief who does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.
  - B. This is more than just pie in the sky by and by.
    1. The non-Christian sees the Christian life as a life of boredom and pain and suffering.
    2. To them it's the long bet. Pay now and reap the benefits later.
    3. But that is not what Jesus is talking about here.
  - C. He calls the life that He offers now as the true life; the abundant life.
  - D. Satan has always been telling people that he gives the abundant life and everyone trusts in God will come up wanting and longing for the "good life" but it is not so.
  - E. Jesus provides more than the basics. He provides abundantly.

<http://ToulonBaptist.com>