

# A Journey with Christ the Messiah

## I AM the Door of the Sheep

### John 10:1-10

#### INTRODUCTION:

This morning we are continuing with a series that I have entitled *A Journey with Christ the Messiah*. This morning we will be looking at the third of seven "I AM" statements that Jesus actually said about Himself in John's gospel.

#### All Stand and Read Scripture

John 10:1-10 (NASB)

10 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbs up some other way, he is a thief and a robber. <sup>2</sup> But he who enters by the door is a shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup> To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> When he puts forth all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup> A stranger they simply will not follow, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers." <sup>6</sup> This figure of speech Jesus spoke to them, but they did not understand what those things were which He had been saying to them.

<sup>7</sup> So Jesus said to them again, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. <sup>9</sup> I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have *it* abundantly.

As we prepare to continue this journey, let's bow in a word of prayer.

#### Prayer

#### ILLUSTRATION:

Imagine yourself standing before a great wall. When you stand in front of the wall you look very small in its presence. This wall is very tall and it expands to the left and to the right as far as the eye can see.

On your side of the wall you see wars, you see death, you see despair, devastation, and destruction.

On the other side of the wall you have been told, with relative certainty, that there is happiness, joy, peace, contentment, and even life more abundantly. As you stand before this great wall you long to be on the other side but you find no means of entrance.

**What shall you do?** The wall is too high to climb. It cannot be tunneled under and it cannot be gone through. **What shall you do?**

Let me suggest to you that there **IS** a great wall that exists between us and God. There is a wall of sin, enmity, and death separating us from God.

However, there is a door, a heavenly entrance, by which you can escape from all of the wretchedness that is on your side of the wall. That door allows you to escape from the bondage of sin that we all live in to a life of righteousness. A life where your sins have been forgiven by the grace of God and the enabling of the Holy Spirit in your life. When you pass through **That Door**, you no longer fear death and you have the assurance of salvation and eternal life in a beautiful place that is being prepared for us, called Heaven, with our Creator!

**That Door** is Jesus. Jesus said "**I AM the Door of the Sheep**".

## **BODY:**

### **I. I AM THE DOOR OF THE SHEEP.**

It is through Him and ONLY through Him that we can pass through that wall and enter into the other side that God has prepared for us.

There is **A Door**. But it is not just "A Door", it is **THE ONE DOOR!** The **ONE and ONLY DOOR** that provides mankind a means of escape. That is through the Lord Jesus Christ! Our hope, our only possibility of ever entering into the Kingdom of God, is through that one and only door!

There is one entrance into God's Kingdom. Everyone needs to find **that** entrance. Jesus, the Eternal I AM, the Messiah, our Creator, and Savior speaks and declares "I AM the Door of the Sheep".

## **ILLUSTRATION:**

We use doors every day. When you left your house this morning, you went through a door. When you got in and out of your car, you went through a door. When you walked into the church this morning, you walked through a door. You have probably gone through several more doors since you walked into the church. I would venture to guess that you didn't even give them a moment's notice.

Jesus uses such basic things to teach such incredible truths. Things that are right in front of us. Things that we live with and use. Things that we can relate to and understand.

We will not think much today about the doors of our homes unless we worry that we may have left one unlocked. Yet I promise you that none of us would feel comfortable going to bed tonight without a door standing between you and the great outdoors.

A door can both grant access as well as deny access. Jesus tells us "Truly, truly, or with **absolute certainty**, "I am the Door of the Sheep". He is not the door for the goats. Many have tried to enter into the sheep fold some other way. Jesus said that anyone who tries to enter into the sheep fold by some other way are "Thieves and Robbers" and they will be

cast out. There is no means by which you can safely enter into the fold of God except through the entrance of the door which is Christ.

So how can we recognize the door?

## II. RECOGNIZING THE DOOR.

Just prior to chapter 10, Jesus had healed a blind man on the Sabbath which irritated the Pharisees. They asked the man who had received his sight how his eyes had been opened. The man answered...

John 9:11 (NASB)

<sup>11</sup> ... "The man who is called Jesus made clay, and anointed my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash'; so I went away and washed, and I received sight."

The Pharisees did not want to believe that the man had received his sight from Jesus. In their eyes Jesus had broken the Sabbath and therefore could not be of God. But they had a problem because this man who was blind from birth was saying that a miracle had occurred and he was giving glory to God for his new sight. So they questioned yet again how he received his sight. This was his response.

John 9:27-34 (NASB)

<sup>27</sup> He answered them, "I told you already and you did not listen; why do you want to hear *it* again? You do not want to become His disciples too, do you?" <sup>28</sup> They reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup> We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where He is from." <sup>30</sup> The man answered and said to them, "Well, here is an amazing thing, that you do not know where He is from, and *yet* He opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup> We know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing and does His will, He hears him. <sup>32</sup> Since the beginning of time it has never been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. <sup>33</sup> If this man were not from God, He could do nothing." <sup>34</sup> They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you teaching us?" So they put him out.

The man had discovered Jesus and had determined that He had to be doing God's will because of the miracle that had occurred to him. Yet the Pharisees eyes were blinded to the truth and could not believe what had just happened in front of them.

This is the context that leads us into chapter 10. Jesus contrasts Himself with all those who pretended, or had pretended, to be shepherds of Israel. He develops these three points; He comes in by the door; He is the door; and He is the Good Shepherd of the sheep.

John 10:1-2 (NASB)

<sup>10</sup> "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbs up some other way, he is a thief and a robber. <sup>2</sup> But he who enters by the door is a shepherd of the sheep.

This was Jesus' reply to the Pharisees. These men claimed to be the spiritual leaders, or shepherds, of the people for God. But they were denying the very arrival of the Messiah despite the evidence in front of their eyes. Because of their denial and spiritual blindness, they were excommunicating the adoring disciple who had broken out of a lifetime of darkness into marvelous light.

If anyone today dares to say that there are more than one door, they are liars and the truth is not in them. God's people, referred to as the sheep, will not listen to them because they know Christ's voice. In other words, they know what the scriptures teach.

Jesus says that **He** enters by the door. That is to say that He is the true shepherd of the sheep. He is doing God's will and is fulfilling all that is written of the Messiah.

### **III. HOW DO WE ENTER INTO THE DOOR?**

John 10:3-5 (NASB)

**<sup>3</sup>To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he puts forth all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>A stranger they simply will not follow, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers.”**

His sheep hear His voice. The sheep follow Him, for they know His voice. There are many other voices, but the sheep do not know them. There are people who would try to mislead, even the elect, if they could. Their safety consists, not in knowing all the voices, but in knowing the voice which means life to them — the voice of Jesus. All the rest are the voices of strangers.

We by the assistance of the Holy Spirit hear the true voice of God based upon His teachings in the scripture and follow Him.

Jesus did say that there are those who will try to get into the fold by other means. They think they can get into heaven by their own good deeds. This is a very prominent idea. They think they can get into the fold by climbing the ladder of their own morality. They try to get up there by their own good deeds by their own way. Many a person will say "I am a good person" and I am a good this and I am a good that. And that is what is going to gain me entrance into heaven. But it is not so!

Some think that baptism will get you there. Baptism in and of itself will not! Some think that adhering to a strict set of rules will get you there. But it will not! Our ONLY entrance is through the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. Faith in Him and a continual obedience to his commands. Faith without works is Dead!

Every sheep MUST come through this door. AND every sheep WILL come through this door. Listen carefully! A sheep will never be found who is trying to jump the fence. They will be faithful in going through the door, the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. Listen to what Jesus said in verse 9.

John 10:9 (NASB)

**<sup>9</sup>I am the door; (This is the third time He has said it. It should be very clear) if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.**

God is no respecter of persons. Jesus says if "anyone enters" (noble or common, rich or poor, the worst of sinners or the most moral), if ANY man enters in, he will be saved.

We do not know who are in the Kingdom of God. But we do know the Gospel message. May we go out to a dying world and proclaim they need to enter in by the door! If you go through Christ, you will be saved. If you try to go some other way, you will be lost. That is our message to a lost and dying world who stands on this side of the wall. There is only

one entrance. We point them to the Light of the World. We point them to the Bread of Life. We point them to the Door of the Sheep.

Jesus said, **I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.**

You must enter in. There can be 1000 people standing outside of this church building in the parking lot, but if they do not enter into the church, what good is it? The beauty of this is that God gives us a desire within us and He shows us the condition of the world we live in and the beauty of the Savior. When we gain that desire, we do not have to be drug through the door. He creates a burning desire within you to come running through the door that leads us to heaven. We want to be on the OTHER side of the wall!

Jesus says that if anyone enters in, he will be saved. That should be enough! Praise God for His salvation! He is going to be **SAVED, SAVED, SAVED!** But not only is he going to be saved, he can go in and out to find pasture. And it is so good! Sometimes we want to take these parables and take them too far. Don't take them too far, just enjoy what is there! It is **GOOD** to go in and out and find pasture.

We are safe in that fold. I am thankful that there are some who do not have access to that fold. I mean that through a **demonic** sense. Those who are not allowed access through that door.

There is a peace. A fulfillment. A happiness. Joy. A contentment to be brought through that door in Christ. To know that He is watching after us. To know we are saved and have the freedom to go in and out to find pasture. Folks! It just does not get any better than that in this life.

Jesus is The Door. In Him we find salvation. I am thankful for the safety that within this fold, I cannot be drug out and there will be no enemies that will come in. God may allow me to go through some trials and tribulations, but even those He will work together for my good in His glory.

You know, a sheep doesn't need a whole lot in this life. A green pasture and a little bit of cool drinking water is all it needs. When we enter through the Door, just like the sheep, we will be satisfied with the things that God blesses us with and it will be sufficient.

Then you see the caution in verse 10 where Jesus says,

**John 10:10 (NASB)**

**<sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.**

There is an enemy of the sheep of God. He is as a roaring lion walking about seeking whom he may devour. He seeks to kill, to maim, to hurt, and to destroy. This is the warning. It is good that we be reminded that we need to stay near the fold.

We live in a world that is corrupted by sin. We each have struggles in life and face battles and trials. But we are promised an **abundant life**. Although some people have tainted and twisted this teaching with earthly treasures, it is still true that we **ARE** to have an abundant life. **Right now!** We are not to live in absolute misery. I know there is sickness and I know that there are things that happen to us in this life that is not

pleasant. But God can give us a **peace that passes all understanding**. He can give happiness and joy in spite of our circumstances.

He can put a smile on the face of a sheep even if they are being sheared! **Yes, He CAN!** Jesus said that we will have an abundant life and it **is** a good life, **isn't it**, to be **saved**?. Not only do we have life, but we have it more abundantly. Not only in the future, but also in the here and now! Living an abundant life NOW.

I'm not talking about some life of ease in this world. But, I am talking about having peace in God. I'm not talking about living in a life of luxury, but finding contentment in what God has given to us. The idea that it is abundant is that it just keeps right on giving! The water that Jesus gives us is a living water that just keeps on flowing. That is the more abundant life.

## **CONCLUSION:**

Jesus says, "I AM the Door". I would like to caution you that the vast majority of people that you make contact with this week have not walked through this door. It should be a sobering reality that God, through His great grace, has brought us through the door. It should also be on our hearts to tell others of this one and only door to salvation. This door is narrow to the world but it is plenty wide for all people. This door, the door of the sheep, has granted us an entrance way into the portals of heaven. To be in the presence of God for eternity.

Have you gone through that door? That is my closing question this morning.

Has God given you a love and a passion and a desire for Him, His word, and His people?

Jesus is THE Door. I know that there are some people here that, if they could, would push someone they know through that door. But you know it does not work that way, don't you. They have to be able to understand the type of world that they are living in and then, by the spirit of God, be able to desire to go through that door. I promise you that if God ever allows them to understand their condition and shows them the door, they will rush to it.

The problem is that it requires God, because men would rather grope in the darkness. So we must allow God to intervene with those we love. May God give us a heart, a desire, and a passion to show and tell people that Jesus is the Door to the Sheep.

If you do not know Christ as your Lord and Savior, I invite you to come forward this morning and place your faith in Christ, be immersed in the waters of baptism, and walk through the Door so that you can have an abundance of life and an assurance of salvation.

**He is Lord!**