

“I AM” The Door of the Sheep
John 10:1-10

v. 1-3

The Sheep

- In Scripture, we as believers are often referred to as sheep.
- Why is this the case?
 - 1) We need protection.
 - 2) We need provision.
 - 3) We tend to wander.
- This comparison is found prevalently in both the Old and New Testament.
- Unbelievers are referred to as goats.

The Shepherd

- The person entrusted with the flock of someone else and sometimes they owned their own sheep.
- Their responsibilities included:
 - 1) Leading them in and out of pasture.
 - 2) To lead them to safe and clean water sources.
 - 3) Protect them from predators and thieves.
- In order to do this their sheep had to be familiar with them.
- They had to have the trust of the sheep in order for them to follow them.
- He enters by the door or gate.
- God is oftentimes compared to a shepherd in both the Old and New Testament.

The Sheepfold

- The sheepfold was a structure that was usually made out of stone in a square, rectangular, or circular shape. A sheep pen.
- It would've been just high enough for the sheep to not be able to see out and predators to not be able to see in.
- It would have one entryway or gate.
- A shepherd would pay to put his sheep into a sheepfold with other flocks while he attended to other business.

The Gatekeeper

- This is someone who would man the gate of the sheepfold.
- He would ward off predators and robbers but only to a certain extent.
- He would be paid to temporarily keep watch over another shepherd's flock.
- Sometimes it was even multiple flocks within the same sheepfold.
- He would only open the door for the shepherd.

The Robber/Thief

- Because there is only one legitimate entryway into the sheepfold, a robber or someone who wanted to do harm, must find another way in.
- His desire and objective was only to kill, steal, and disrupt.
- The door was closed off for him.

v. 3-6

The Relationship Between the Sheep and the Shepherd

- In many sheepfolds there would be multiple flocks at the same time.
- How would a shepherd know who was theirs?

- A shepherd would have such a relationship with his sheep that the sheep would recognize his voice and would come only to him.
- Any other voice they would run away from.
- A shepherd would stand at the gate and call his sheep and they would come.
- Each shepherd had a distinct way of calling his sheep and they were used to that.
- Only his sheep would come out when he called.

Jesus is painting a picture of Him and His sheep and the familiarity that they share with one another.

v. 7-10

I AM the Door of the Sheep

Ego Eimi

- There are two ways to say the phrase “I am” in the Greek language.
- The first is the word *Ego*.
- This is where we get the English word *ego* which is our personality or personal identity.
- The other way to say I am in Greek is the word *Eimi*.
- To us this seems redundant that Jesus would say “I AM, I AM”.
- This is not a translation error or Jesus misspeaking. It is direct and intentional.
- The only other time that this phrasing is seen is in the Greek Septuagint, which is the Greek Old Testament.
- Exodus 3:14
- Jesus is declaring His divinity with this statement.
- Jesus is declaring His Heavenly origin with this statement.
- Jesus is declaring His authority with this statement.

Figure of Speech

- Jesus often taught in parables, allegories, and figures of speech.
- He has explained a scenario in which there's sheep, a sheepfold, a shepherd, a gatekeeper, and thieves.
- They don't quite understand where He is going with them so He gets clear by saying that HE is the door of the sheep.
- He is the door by which the sheep go in and out.
- Everyone else who came before him claiming to be the messiah was a thief and a liar.
- Jesus is the only way to find safety in the sheepfold.
- He is the door to safety, pasture, provision, and eternal life.

1) The sheep in the parable are His people that He knows salvifically.

2) The sheepfold is safe.

3) Jesus calls His people by name. This is for salvation.

- He calls His people by name and we respond.
- This is in keeping with God's sovereignty over salvation.
- When Jesus calls someone to salvation they respond in faith and they desire to be with Him.

4) All who enter through the door of Jesus will find eternal life in Him.