

The Door and the Good Shepherd – John 10



MEMORY VERSE: “I AM the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture... I AM the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. John 10:9,11

DAY 1 JOHN 10:1-6 — The Door to the Sheepfold

1. What did Jesus say about the one who climbs over the wall to get into the sheepfold instead of entering the pen by way of the door? v.1,5
2. Why would one climb into the sheepfold by another way rather than entering through the door?
3. What is true of the one who enters the sheepfold by the door? vv.2-4

LEARN THE TRUTH

Jesus continues to address the Pharisees who cast the healed blind man out of the Synagogue. They closed the door, cutting him out of fellowship, because of his faith in Jesus. Beware of blind leaders who hide, pervert or steal away access to truth. Do not listen to or follow them.

4. Why do the sheep react so differently to their own shepherd than to the robber? Can you relate to this in your own life?
5. The focus of this Scripture is on the Door and the Shepherd, but in keeping with the allegory, what or who do you think the “gatekeeper” or “watchman” might be?

DAY 2 JOHN 10:7-10 — I AM the Door

6. What is the significance of Jesus being the Door for the sheep? vv.7-9

Acts 4:11,12

7. What are a few of the many reasons Jesus was able to legally claim, "I AM the Door?"
Micah 5:2

Isaiah 7:13-14

8. At this point in time, Jesus was in the last year of His earthly ministry. How would His upcoming death and resurrection offer further proof that He is indeed the Door? Hebrews 10:19-22

Matthew 27:51

9. What do you think it means for one who is saved to “go in and out and find pasture?” v.9

10. Considering the extreme opposite aims of Jesus and the thief, why were the Pharisees unable to understand the life-giving truth Jesus offered? (vv.5-6)
v.10

John 8:19; 43-44

John 9:41

DAY 3 JOHN 10:11-18 — I AM the Good Shepherd

- | 11. What do the Good Shepherd and hired hand have in common, yet drastically different? vv.11-15 | |
|---|---|
| Jesus- The Good Shepherd | Hired Hand |
| <p>1. He knows the sheep by name</p> <p>2. He is willing to lay down his life for the sheep</p> <p>3. He is the source of life and salvation for the sheep</p> <p>4. He is the true shepherd of the sheep</p> | <p>1. He does not know the sheep by name</p> <p>2. He is not willing to lay down his life for the sheep</p> <p>3. He is not the source of life and salvation for the sheep</p> <p>4. He is not the true shepherd of the sheep</p> |

12. What types of people can you think of today who are “hired hands,” or “thieves,” compared to those who really care about the people they shepherd?

1 Peter 5:1-3

13. What is the ultimate sacrifice of the Good Shepherd? How many times did Jesus repeat this and why do you think He repeated it so many times? vv.11-18
14. What is your understanding of Jesus' words about folds and flocks? v.16 See also v.9
15. Why are the claims Jesus made in verses 17 and 18 especially important?

DAY 4 JOHN 10:19-30 — I and the Father are One

16. Once again, there is division about Jesus. What were the conflicting opinions? vv.19-21
17. After all that Jesus had said and done, why do you think the Jews felt that He was “keeping them in suspense?” v.24
18. How did Jesus reply to their question? vv.25-27
19. What does it mean to you that you will not perish and no one can “snatch” you out of His hand? vv.28-30
20. What is your understanding of Jesus' statement, “I and the Father are one?” v. 30

Colossians 1:15-20

21. How did Jesus respond to the Jews who wanted to stone Him for blasphemy? vv.31-32
22. What does their answer to Jesus reveal? What do you think is behind this attitude? v.33
23. In Hebrew, the word, “elohim” refers to the one true God, but is also used for man, gods, judges... How does this help your understanding of what Jesus said in verses 34-42?
- Psalm 82
24. What did Jesus say about the works of the Father, or lack of those works? vv.37-39
25. Once again, what were the two opposite reactions to Jesus? What truths in this chapter inspire you to follow the Good Shepherd more closely?vv.39-42, John 10

LOVE THE TRUTH

It's hard to imagine why anyone would reject the love, protection, sacrifice and security Jesus offers through His death and resurrection. Think about how you can more deeply appreciate and follow Jesus Christ, the only Door to salvation and the Good Shepherd who offers you abundant life.

John 10

The Door and the Good Shepherd

So far in John's gospel, Jesus has said: "I AM the Bread of Life." "I AM the Light of the World." "Before Abraham was, I AM." He now further proclaims His deity by saying, "I am the Door" and "I AM the Good Shepherd."

Jesus used images that were familiar to the people of His day, sheep, shepherds, the sheepfold, wolves and watchmen. The sheepfold was a pen surrounded by walls, with only one entrance. A watchman would sleep at the entrance or doorway to keep the sheep from escaping and to protect them from intruders who would sneak in to harm or steal them. Different flocks were often kept in the same pen at night. In the morning the watchman or gatekeeper would let the shepherds in. The shepherds would call the sheep, who would hear the voice of their own shepherd and follow him out to pasture. Jesus is the Door to the sheepfold because He is the only legitimate way in and He is the Good shepherd because He loves His sheep and lays down His life for them.

Scripture does not say who the gatekeeper or watchman is. It could be Jesus Himself as He is the only way in or out. It might be God who sent Jesus, or the Holy Spirit who confirmed Jesus at His baptism. Prophets were considered watchmen, sent to warn people, or to prepare the way for the coming Messiah, as did John the Baptist. In a sense, the Bible is a gatekeeper, with prophecies, promises, life-giving truth and warnings against false teaching. Perhaps a watchman is one like the prophetess Anna, who recognized the infant Jesus at the temple as the awaited Messiah in Luke 2:36-38.

God Himself is referred to as the Shepherd of Israel. "Hear us, O Shepherd of Israel, you who led Joseph like a flock. Restore us, O God; make your face shine upon us that we may be saved." (Psalm 80:1,3) God's Leaders were also seen as "shepherds" of the people. Many of the religious rulers of Christ's day were evil,

seeking self promotion and glory at the expense of true seekers of God. The evil scribes and Pharisees were the robbers and thieves, convinced that they were God's instruments, but instead depriving the people of truth. They not only did not lead people to God, but actually drove them away from God. Jesus came to this sheepfold, which is Israel, but the sheep rejected Him because they didn't know Him. He has other sheep, which are not of this fold, the Gentiles. Jesus came to form one flock from 2 different folds including both Jews and non-Jews. Remember that Jesus was not a victim, rather He willingly gave His life in order to save His sheep.

WALK IN TRUTH



Who has your ear? Whose voice do you recognize and follow? Are you able to spot a stranger, the thief who wants only to steal and kill and destroy, or are you earnestly listening to the One who loves you? Are you in tune to the voice of the Good Shepherd who laid down His life for you? We must listen so we can then recognize His voice in order to experience the abundant life He has for us. When we follow Him, we cannot help but see His mighty hand in every area of our lives.

We too are called to be shepherds, serving others and giving sacrificially for them. God still works through people to take care of the ones He loves, as He did with Moses and Aaron. "You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron." (Ps 77:20) May we also be like David, of whom Scripture says, "With upright heart, he shepherded them and guided them with his skillfull hand. (Ps 78:72) Follow the Good Shepherd and be a good shepherd to those in your care.

Notes