

## I am the Door, I am the Good Shepherd

John 10: 1-21

**Author of the Gospel of John:** The Author is John, an apostle, a disciple of Jesus, son of Zebedee, “the disciple whom Jesus loved”

**Audience of the Gospel of John:** The original audience of this book was both Jews and Gentiles living in the Greco-Roman world in Ephesus and beyond.

**Context:** These are two of seven “I am” statements that Jesus makes about Himself that John wrote about in his gospel. Right before this passage, Jesus has just healed a blind man on the sabbath by spitting in mud and anointing the man’s eyes. The blind man sees now and professes that Jesus healed him. After confessing that Jesus healed him, the Pharisees have cast the formerly blind man out of the synagogue. Jesus finds the man, reveals Himself to the man and the man confesses that He believes in Jesus. Jesus then states that He came into this world that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind. Some nearby Pharisees heard Jesus say this and asked “Are we also blind?” Jesus then says “If you were blind, you would have no guilt, but now that you say, We see, your guilt remains.”

### Cultural Information:

**Sheepfolds in Ancient Israel:** The sheepfold was an enclosed rock wall of stacked stones that provided protection for the sheep. The door of the sheepfold was an opening where the sheep could come in and out. The Shepherd would lie his body at the opening of the sheepfold to protect the sheep from danger. The sheep would have to go through Him to get out or come in.

**Who?** Jesus is speaking and He is speaking to some Pharisees.

**What?** In response to a conversation with some Jewish religious leaders, Jesus is giving a figure of speech using the concept of a shepherd and a sheepfold to explain to those listening how they can be saved.

**When?** This was likely written between A.D. 70 and A.D. 100. Possibly around the time of the destruction of the Jerusalem temple.

**Where?** The events of this passage take place in Jerusalem.

**Why?** Jesus is making significant statements about Himself in order to reveal more about Himself to the original hearers and to all who would hear/read in the future. He is doing this so that mankind will know who He is and believe.

**How?** Jesus uses a figure of speech that the hearers would be so familiar with due to their occupational world to proclaim who He is. The hearers would also have been familiar with old testament writings concerning the concept of shepherd.

## **I am the Door, I am the Good Shepherd**

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1 “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. 2 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. 5 A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” 6 This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

7 So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to 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 comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. 11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. 13 He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. 17 For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

19 There was again a division among the Jews because of these words. 20 Many of them said, “He has a demon, and is insane; why listen to him?” 21 Others said, “These are not the words of one who is oppressed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”

## **Observation: What Does it Say/What Do You See?**

**Write down your observations about the following.**

**The Door:**

**The Gatekeeper:**

**The Good Shepherd:**

**Theives and Robbers:**

**A Hired Hand:**

**The Thief:**

**The Wolf:**

**The Sheep:**

**What facts/details can you gather about Jesus from this passage?**

**What are some contrasts of ideas or characters you see in the passage?**

**What does verses 3-5 tell us about the sheep of the Good Shepherd?**

**How does the Good Shepherd handle His sheep and what does He do for them?**

**What do you notice about the word “know” in verses 14-15?**

**What does Jesus say about His other sheep that are not of this fold?**

**What does Jesus say about laying down His life in verses 17-18?**



**Write Down Any Other Observations You Have.**

## **Interpretation: What Does it Mean?**

**Consider that Jesus is speaking to Pharisees. What is Jesus trying to tell them in through this figure of speech about the sheepfold? How might the Pharisees be trying to “enter the sheepfold”?**

**What does it mean that Jesus is the door or the gate?**

**What did Jesus say about those who enter the sheepfold by the door in v. 9? What does this mean? Check cross references in other parts of the Bible:**

**Cross References relating to “the door” - Matthew 7:13, Matthew 25:10**

**Cross References relating to “going in and out” Deut 28:6, Num. 27:-16-17, Psalm 121:8**

**Cross References relating to “finding pasture” 1 Chron 4: 39-40, Isa. 49: 9-10, Psalm 23:2, Ezekiel 34: 12-15**

**Read the following passages. What do these passages say about what bad shepherds do to the sheep? What does God say He will do in Ezekiel 34:10?**

**Jeremiah 23: 1-3**

**Ezekiel 34 1-10**

**Read the following passage. The context of this passage is Joshua taking Moses place as leader of God’s people. What does these passages say about a good shepherd?**

**Numbers 27: 16-19**

## **Interpretation: What Does it Mean?**

**Read the following passages. What do these passages say about THE Good Shepherd? What similarities do you see with John 10? What greater meaning does this give to what Jesus is like as the ultimate Good Shepherd?**

**Psalms 23**

**Isaiah 40:11**

**Luke 15: 3-7**

**Revelation 7:17**

**What does it mean that Jesus lays His life down for the sheep?**

**Read Revelation 7:17. Where is the Good Shepherd at the end of the Big Story? What does this mean for the sheep?**

### **Simple Word Study!**

**Look up the definition for the Greek word “know” in verses 14-15. The Greek word is Ginosko. Read that word in Matthew 1:24-25. What does the definition of the word Ginosko and how it’s used in Matthew 1:24-25 tell you? What does this mean for how the sheep can know Jesus and the Father? What does this mean for how well the sheep are known?**



Quick video of how to  
look up a hebrew or  
greek word.