

PLEASANT VIEW PROCLAIMER

July 17, 2022

I AM the Door (John 10:1-10)

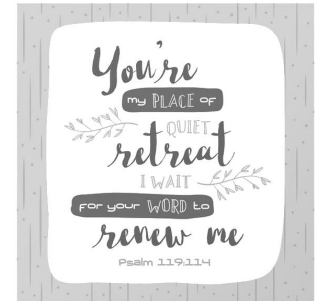
We continue our series on the seven great "I AM" statements in the gospel of John. Today we will be looking at "I AM the door" from John 10:1-10. There are two "I AM" statements that occur in this one discourse, but we will save the second one for next week. In looking at this text, let's consider a few questions:

Why does Jesus use the metaphor of sheep? (1-6) - The raising of sheep was common in the land of Palestine during ancient times, and this continues even until today. Jesus knew that his audience would be familiar with the imagery of sheep, a sheepfold, and shepherds. Verses 1-5 describes a morning scene in Israel. A shepherd enters through a gate into the sheepfold which has several flocks. The enclosure is guarded at night by a gatekeeper to prevent thieves and beasts of prey from entering. Even with the familiar imagery, the audience does NOT understand the metaphor (6).

What is the sheepfold? (1) - In the time of Jesus, a sheepfold would have been a courtyard surrounded by a stone or mud-brick wall. It only had one opening (potentially with a gate) through which the sheep could enter when they came in for the night. The sheepfold is meant to metaphorically represent the kingdom of God or being in His grace, His salvation, His presence (**Rom 5:1-2**).

Who are the thieves and robbers? (1, 8) - These are the Pharisees or false teachers who attempt to lead the people but don't accept God's plan through Christ. This ties in directly with John 9 and the aftermath of Jesus healing the blind man. Jesus had accused them of being spiritually blind even though they claimed sight (**John 9:41**). When Jesus says, "came before me," He is pointing back to those of Israel's past who led the people away from God. God had previously communicated warnings through the prophets about leading the people astray (**Jer 23:1-2; Ezek 34:1-10**). Later, Paul warned the Christians in Galatia concerning those who are leading them astray by preaching a different gospel (**Gal 1:6-9**).

Who is the shepherd? (v. 11) - It seems like this is where Jesus is directing the conversation in verses 1-5, but before getting there in verse 11 (where we



"I will praise You, O Lord, among the peoples, and I will sing praises to You among the nations."

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IN JESUS...
WE NOT ONLY FIND WONDERS,
WE FIND THE WONDERFUL ONE
WE NOT ONLY FIND PEACE,
WE FIND THE PRINCE OF PEACE
WE NOT ONLY FIND RIGHTEOUSNESS,
WE FIND THE RIGHTEOUS ONE
WE NOT ONLY FIND SPIRITUAL FOOD,
WE FIND THE BREAD OF LIFE
WE NOT ONLY FIND COUNSEL,
WE FIND THE COUNSELOR
WE NOT ONLY FIND SALVATION,
WE FIND THE SAVIOR
WE NOT ONLY FIND THE KINGDOM,
WE FIND THE KING OF KINGS

will be next week), He makes a detour in verse 7, when He proclaims “I AM the door...”

What/Who is the Door? (1-2, 7, 9) - This is the entry point, and the only way to be part of the flock and enter the sheepfold. Jesus says that He is the door (7, 9), meaning that He is the only entry point to God’s Kingdom, His Grace, His Salvation, His Presence. This echoes what Paul said in **Rom 5:2**, when he says, “Through him we have also obtained access...”

What will we receive if we enter through the door? (9-10)

E_____ (“he will be saved”) - This is the overarching point of Jesus saying, “I AM the door.” He is the ONLY entry point to eternal life or salvation. There is no other way! This is emphatically proclaimed throughout scripture in passages such as **John 3:36, Acts 4:12, and 1 John 5:11-12.**

E_____ (“go in”) - Through Jesus, we have the right of access to the Father, and one of the great privileges is that He will equip us in ways no one else can (**Eph 6:10-20**). We simply enter in and invest in Him.

E_____ (“go...out”) - This is not leaving the kingdom or the presence of God but going out into the world exhibiting a new way of life, equipped by the creator of the universe. We go back out into the world with a changed purpose (**Matt 7:13-16**).

E_____ (“find pasture”) - This is possibly a call back to David’s words in Psalm 23, “lie down in green pastures.” It is clearly not a promise that the flock will be exempt from suffering in this life (**John 15:20**). However, being in the sheepfold is the only place in a world full of suffering to find real peace (**John 16:33; Phil 4:4-7**). With Faith in Christ, we can be free from the burden of looking for things in this world to give us contentment (**Phil 4:13**). Only in God’s sheepfold can we “have life and have it abundantly” (**10**).

PRAYER LIST

- **Doug Demonbreun** spent the night in the hospital with cellulitis, but is home now
- **Forshia Pennington** is still battling breast cancer
- **Kim Waller** had a mini-stroke
- **Faye Waller** is at NHC rehab after elbow surgery
- **Judy Grissom** has been diagnosed with breast cancer
- **Rebecca Brown’s** great-granddaughter passed away
- **Carolyn Pennington**, Tammy’s aunt, has breast cancer
- **Donna Rawls Head** has cancer
- **Tim & Diane Singleton** are getting over covid, while Diane recovers from knee surgery
- Continue to pray for: families in **Uvalde, Texas** and those in **Ukraine; Kristine Garrett, Delores Coleman**, the **Krantz** family, **John Hayes, Nick Phifer, Gaynell Walker, Rosemary Douglas, Isabel Johnson**, and **Jim Sims**

SERVING TODAY (July 17, 2022)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Read: E. Walker
Prayer: R. Mayo

WORSHIP

Read: L. Gregory
Wait On Table: J. Walker
Serve: J. Demonbreun, J. Buchanan
Prayer: M. Reed