



Metro Calvary – Roseville CA
Richard Cimino
July 25, 2010

The Gospel of John

The Good Shepherd part 2

John 10

We began our study of **John 10** by **setting the context!**

In **John 8** Jesus made the 2nd of His great *I Am* statements — *I AM the light of the world*. He added to that amazing declaration that *whoever followed Him would not ever walk in spiritual darkness, instead they would have the light of life*. The religious rulers responded in open opposition to Him.

Directly following that declaration and confrontation Jesus healed a man blind from birth. Those same religious leaders threw the healed man out of the congregation of Israel — *CAST him out*.

Immediately after this man is *CAST out* of the nation of Israel by the religious leaders Jesus gives a sneak preview of the **beautiful** and **profound** theme of **John 10** — John tells us that JESUS FOUND him.

All that Jesus has to say in **Chapter 10** is directed at the religious leaders of Israel and is a continuation out the confrontation Jesus had with them after they had excommunicated the man Jesus had healed.

Here in **Chapter 10** Jesus used probably the most familiar things in their culture to tell them the TRUTH about who they were and who He is — the image of the shepherd and sheep. Throughout the Old Testament God revealed Himself to Israel as their shepherd and spoke of Israel as His sheep and His flock ([Psalm 77:20](#); [Psalm 79:13](#); [Psalm 80:1](#); [Psalm 95:7](#); [Psalm 100:3](#) and most famously [Psalm 23](#)). The promised Messiah was spoken of as a shepherd ([Isaiah 40:11](#)). Throughout the

Old Testament the people of Israel looked on the king and prophets as shepherds. For background, read ([Isaiah 56:9-12](#); [Jeremiah 23:1-4](#); [Ezekiel 34](#); [Zechariah 11](#)).

In order to understand the **meaning** and **application** of what Jesus was saying we got our feet wet in the imagery of the chapter

The *shepherd* and the *sheepfold* (v.1)

The *DOOR* and a *GATE KEEPER* (v.1-3)

Two other *DOORS* (v.7; 9)

The *sheep*

Different *FOLDS* (v.16) and a single *FLOCK* (v.16).

Those whom Jesus labels as *THIEVES* and *ROBBERS* (v1; 8; 10), and *WOLVES* (v.12) and *HIRELINGS* (v.12).

Let's read through the first section of the chapter again

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

This sheepfold is not heaven, but Israel.

This door is not Jesus — but speaks of rightful access to the sheep of Israel.

Jesus brands the religious leaders as *kleptēs* and *lēs-tēs*.

²But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³To him the gatekeeper opens

Gatekeeper = John the Baptizer

The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

Here's how D.A. Carson put it — *Jesus comes to the sheep pen of Judaism, and calls his own sheep out individually to constitute his own messianic 'flock'.*

⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.

On this side of heaven — The false shepherds *threw* the beggar out of the synagogue. But in reality Jesus *led* him out of Judaism and into His Messianic flock!

⁵A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.

We closed by looking at the NATURE and ACTIONS of the Shepherd and the Sheep

WE PICK UP IN VERSE 8

⁸All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. ¹¹I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²He 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. ¹³He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶And 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. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸No 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.”

⁸ *All who ever came before me* — From the record of the Old Testament and the New Testament we can safely say that Jesus was not condemning every prophet or servant of God who ever ministered before He came to earth. Moses, Joshua, Samuel, Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel — and so many more who heard God’s voice and who served him faithfully — right up to John the Baptizer — are not included in this accusation.

It is aimed at those shepherds who cared more for their own gain than for the sheep in their care. We want to note that Jesus said “*are thieves and robbers*” — not “*were thieves and robbers.*” That makes it clear that He had the present religious leaders in mind. They were not true shepherds nor did they have the approval of God on their ministry. They did not love the sheep, but instead exploited them and abused them. The beggar was a good example of what the “thieves and robbers” could do.

As we read the four accounts of the life of Jesus it is clear that the religious rulers of Israel were interested only in providing for themselves and protecting themselves. The Pharisees were covetous (Luke 16:14) and even took advantage of the poor widows (Mark 12:40). They turned God’s temple into a den of thieves (Matt. 21:13), and they plotted to kill Jesus so that Rome would not take away their privileges (John 11:49-53).

As we consider the Roman occupation of Israel, I think this can also be a reference to those who pretended to be — or put themselves forth as Messiah — and promised the people freedom, but who lead them into war, suffering and slavery. The freedom that man so desperately needs is not merely political in nature — and can never be achieved by sword and shield. It can only be achieved by a cross. No matter how many people were taken up with the pretenders, those who belong to Jesus will ultimately not recognize those voices.

⁹I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

Here Jesus uses the image of the door for **the third time**. We noted last week that Jewish shepherds kept their sheep in **two kinds of sheepfolds**. In the first five

verses we were introduced to the sheepfold in the town or city. The first door had to do with the privilege of access to the sheepfold. The second is Jesus Himself being the way OUT of the mixed sheepfold of Israel. THIS door has to do with the sheepfold that was used out in the country. It was like a low-walled corral made of stone with a narrow opening in front. A man named Sir George Adam Smith was traveling through the land of Israel and came upon one of these sheepfolds. There was one man left there at the fold and he just laid down in the doorway. George Adam Smith asked him — *Where's the door?* And this man replied — *I am the door. No one goes in or out without me knowing it. No one comes in any other way. I am the door.* Here — Jesus is **THE DOOR** — *the DOOR* of SALVATION — the sole means by which the sheep may **enter** and **be saved** from destruction and **be led** into abundance.

HERE'S THE PICTURE

We are all by nature and choice sinners — separated and far from God. We came into this world with hearts and minds alienated from God — at war with God. The longer we live we become more and more alienated from Him, by practice.

Colossians 1:21 And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds,

Romans 8:7 NLT For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will. ⁸That's why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God.

Romans 8:7 KJV Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

Here Jesus answers the greatest questions of the heart — “How can I draw near to God? How can I be justified? How can a sinner like me be reconciled to my Maker?”

THIS IS SO AWESOME — Remember the voice of the burning bush saying to Moses — *I AM*. Now that same voice is saying *I AM the door*. There's no other way to enter, no other entrance, no other way in. Religion can not gain you entrance. RELIGION is from Latin *religare* = *'to bind or to re-link*. Religion is man's attempt to *re-link* by works and rituals with a holy God. It is impossible for sinners to re-link with God, Who is holy. It's impossible.

But there's a door to that other world. There's a door to that fold. There's a way — Jesus is that door. He's the one who alone can connect us with the True, Living and Holy God. Paul would write — *There's one mediator between God and man — the man Jesus Christ*. There's a door, a portal, an opening, through Christ, to Heaven. It is undeserved, unearned, and beyond our ability to purchase — but it's there! Jesus said — *Anybody who enters by me will be saved*.

Please note — the definite article. *I AM the door*. It doesn't say — *I'm one of many doors*. Jesus makes it unmistakably clear — *I AM, to the exclusion of all others, the one and only door*. That is so not 21st century inclusive! But as exclusive as it is — it is also an all inclusive invitation. *If anyone enters —if any man come to me — whosoever believes*. That is pretty inclusive.

Some find it shocking and remarkable that there is only ONE way — ONE door. It isn't remarkable that there's only one way to be saved and enter Heaven. The remarkable thing is that there is A way to be saved and enter Heaven.

By His sacrifice for us on the cross — He has opened **the** way through the great barrier and gulf of sin! By His sacrifice for us on the cross — He has turned away the wrath of God (**propitiation**) and removed the guilt of our sin from us (**expiation**) for sinners.

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God,

Ephesians 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Hebrews 10:19-22 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh.... ²²let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience.....

Hebrews 7:25 ²⁵Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

In the greatest and most profound sense — Jesus is "*the door*." *No one can come to the Father but by Him (John 14:6)*

QUOTE: J.C. Ryle — *Let us take heed that we use this door, and do not merely stand outside looking at it. It is a door free and open to the chief of sinners — **If anyone enters by me, he will be saved...** The day comes when this door will be shut forever, and men shall strive to enter in, but not be able. Then let us make sure work of our own salvation. Let us not stand tarrying outside, and halting between two opinions. Let us enter in and be saved.*

⁹ ...If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.

I WANT TO LOOK AT THIS FROM SEVERAL ANGLES

THE OBVIOUS — There are those who have bought into the lies of false religious systems. They end up losing their souls and will forever suffer torment in hell.

THERE ARE THOSE who have, and still do look for salvation by way of humanistic, political saviors — the Hitlers, the Stalins, the Maos, the Pol Pots — and it isn't until it's too late that they learn that such “saviors”

steal — blatantly confiscate personal property

kill — ruthlessly trample human life under foot

destroy — they savage and ruin all that is valuable.

THIS IS SO HUGE — It is not the Christian doctrine of heaven that is the myth. The real myth — the real lie — is the humanist dream of a utopia created by, governed by, and sustained by man.

Behind ALL of those thieves and robbers is Satan. In **John 8:44** Jesus talked about Satan, the god of this world — and Jesus called him a *murder, a liar from the beginning*. He is the one governing what the New Testament calls *the course of this world*.

Approximately 600,000 teenagers in American — walking according the course of this world — try to commit suicide every year. Over 6,000 succeed. There's a lie attached to that. I can't take it anymore. I'm going to end this and then the pain will stop. It's a way out. It is not a way out. It's just when eternity begins. It's not an end at all — the LIE, the DELUSION, is that we're just physical, and when

physical life is ended — we end. No, no, no, we're spiritual. We're dwelling in a physical body, but we are spiritual. It's proved every night! Every night you dream — no light in the room, no sound in the room. Yet in your dream there's light and sound. It's very real — especially if you're running from a monster. You wake up — Your heart's POUNDING! You're sweating. It was real where you were. You experienced a REALITY beyond the material and beyond the physical.

And there is a very real hell awaiting those who refuse to enter through THE door. And there is someone out there who lies and deceives and would love to take life, physical life and ultimately spiritual life.

he will be saved

They have salvation! This word “saved” means “*delivered safe and sound.*” We used to use that word about a person who had recovered from severe illness, come through a bad storm, survived a war, or was acquitted at court. Some modern preachers want to do away with an “old-fashioned” word like “saved,” but Jesus used it!

I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

HUGE — SAVED — Saved FROM and saved TO.

As the Door, Jesus delivers sinners **from** bondage and **leads them into freedom.**

Friday Morning's Bible Bus — *Psalm 18:17-19 he drew me out of many waters. □¹⁷He rescued me from my strong enemy □ and from those who hated me, □ for they were too mighty for me. □¹⁸They confronted me in the day of my calamity, □ but the LORD was my support. □¹⁹He brought me out into a broad place; □ he rescued me, because he delighted in me.*

As the Door, Jesus delivers sinners **from** bondage and **leads them into freedom.**

Jesus died on the cross to not only bring us to God — but He died that we might *have life and have it abundantly.*

Satan would love for you to think that if you enter by Jesus you **won't be saved** — you'll lose all (friends, career). **Satan would love for you to think** that if you enter by Jesus you will have a miserable life! (never have a good time again —

lead a life of dreary religion, carry around a 20 pound Bible, Drink milk and go to bed at 8:00).

The enemy of your soul is a LIAR — He wants to ROB you — rip you off from ETERNAL life, ABUNDANT life.

Jesus IS *life* — *Colossians 3:4* *When Christ who IS your life shall appear*

Knowing Jesus IS *eternal life* — *John 17:3* *And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.*

Knowing Jesus IS *abundant life* — *Abundant Life* could be translated —“that they may live completely.” Apart from Jesus we only live physically and emotionally — we merely exist! But knowing Jesus means that we live “completely and wonderfully.” *Going in and out* speaks of liberty and security! *Finding pasture* describes the life-sustaining force that is given to the believer. We find in Jesus the bread of life and the water of life — and he provides his sheep with pasture that sustains them.