

"I Am the Door"

John 10:1-10

Jesus begins with a double "*verily*" (vs. 1, 7). When Jesus says "***verily, verily,***" He is indicating what He is about to say is very important (cf. John 3:3; 5:24; 6:47; 8:34, 58 etc.).

➔ The BACKGROUND of an oriental sheepfold:

1. A sheepfold was a circular enclosure surrounded by a wall several feet high.
2. There was only one opening that served as the door.
3. Shepherds would lead their sheep into the fold at night and leave the porter to stand guard at the door.
4. In the morning each shepherd would enter the sheepfold by the porter and call out his own sheep by name.



Doctrinally, this is a "meaty" passage of Scripture. It has been interpreted several different ways. I don't profess to understand everything in this parable. Here is the best interpretation I can give:

1. It is a **parable** (v. 6). A parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. Parables emphasize one primary truth. We must beware about attaching some spiritual meaning to every detail in a parable.
2. **Who is Jesus speaking to?** "*Verily, verily, I say unto YOU.*" The antecedent to "***you***" are the Pharisees in John 9 who excommunicated the blind man Jesus healed. Jesus is contrasting Himself as the true Shepherd from the Pharisees, who were thieves and robbers—False shepherds.
3. **What is the "*sheepfold*"** (vs. 1-2). NOT Heaven, nor the church.
 - The "*sheepfold*" represents "Judaism," in which some of Christ's sheep were to be found.
 - Jesus entered "*the door into the sheepfold*" (Judaism) in a lawful manner—Born of a virgin "*under the law*" (Gal. 4:4)... born in the royal city—Bethlehem... Circumcised the eighth day (Luke 2:21)... Presented to God in the Temple (Luke 2:22).

4. **Who is “the porter”** (v. 3). A “porter” was a **door-keeper**. John the Baptist was “the porter” who presented Jesus, the Shepherd, to Israel (John 1:31). Christ’s sheep within the sheepfold would respond when they heard His voice (v. 3-4). [Today, “the porter” would be the Holy Spirit, who draws people to Christ.]
- NOTE:** Christ’s ministry *began inside the fold*—Christ’s sheep were already WITHIN the fold, prepared and made ready by John the Baptist. The shepherd entered the sheepfold to lead them OUT (e.g. Judaism) (v. 3).
5. **3 doors are mentioned** (vs. 1-2, 7, 9).
- The “door **into** the sheepfold” (v. 1) is distinguished from the “door **of** the sheep” (v. 7).
 - “The door **into** the sheepfold” (v. 1) was the lawful way Christ had entered the sheepfold, in contrast from the thieves and robbers who climb “*up some other way*.”
 - “The door **of** the sheep” (v. 7), is Christ Himself leading His sheep out of Judaism (v. 3b). The door was a means of exit, not entrance. Jesus was the only way OUT of the laws of bondage.
6. “*I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved*” (v. 9). Up to this point Jesus was referring solely to Israelite sheep He leads out of Judaism. Now He reaches forth to “*any man*,” for salvation.
- DOOR #1 (v. 1– “The door **into** the sheepfold”). God's appointed way for the shepherd to ENTER Judaism.
 - DOOR #2 (v. 7). Christ is “the door **of** the sheep”—the means Christ’s sheep can EXIT / ESCAPE the “fold” of Judaism.
 - DOOR #3 (v. 9). “The door” of **salvation**, for both Jew and Gentile. Jesus, “the door,” leads people out of the bondage of legalism into the abundant life (v. 10). [The context is John 9 when the blind man Jesus healed left the “fold” of Judaism (9:34) to become part of Christ’s fold (9:35-38).]
7. “*I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.*” To “go in and out” expresses perfect liberty. Under Judaism, there was no liberty.

- The law of Moses was a wall that separated Israel from other nations. By Christ's death, He broke down "*the middle wall of partition*" (Eph. 1:14-15). Now Christ's sheep are free to "*go in and out.*"

➡ Having considered the doctrinal meaning of the text, let's focus on the central and devotional teaching of the parable in verse 9.

I. The PICTURE Jesus gives— "*I am the door...*"

A. The **SIMPLICITY** of it. 4 words /10 letters—each word adding one letter. So simple...so easy.

- Not a door or vault with puzzling locks and complicated combinations.

Doors are among the most common things in the world. I passed through over a dozen doors before standing before you this morning. Everyone one who is here came in by a door. When you leave, you'll exit through a door.

B. The **SINGLENESS** of it— "*THE door,*" not "a" door. Jesus is not one of several doors. He is the ONE door. Jesus said, "*by ME...*"

1. One door in the ark for both the GIRAFFE and the mouse!
2. One door in the tabernacle / temple.
3. One **mediator** between God and men (1 Tim. 1:5).
4. One **Savior**—Besides Me there is none else (Isa. 45:21-22).
5. One **name** given—the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12).
6. One **sacrifice** offered—The blood of Christ (Heb. 10:12).
7. One **Gospel** preached—The gospel of Jesus Christ.
8. One **foundation** that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Chorus: ONE DOOR

One door, and only one; Yet it's sides are two.

Inside and outside; On which side are you?

One door, and only one; Yet it's sides are two.

I am on the inside; On which side are YOU?

A Roman Catholic priest was trying to persuade an old Baptist deacon to join the Catholic Church. The priest said, "You belong to the wrong church. You need to join the church that has the keys to heaven." The deacon answered, "Why does ah need dem keys when ah gots de doah!"

II. The **PERSON** Jesus is— "*I am...by ME...*"

➡ "*I am*" is the shortest complete sentence in the English language.

A. When Moses asked God His name, God told Moses His name is "*I am*." Seven times Jesus used the name "*I am*" John's gospel:

1. John 6—"*I AM the bread of life.*"
2. John 8—"*I AM the light of the world*"
3. John 10:7, 9—"*I AM the door...*"
4. John 10:11—"*I AM the good shepherd...[who] giveth his life for the sheep.*"
5. John 11—"*I AM the resurrection...*"
6. John 14—"*I AM the way, the truth, and the life...*"
7. John 15—"*I AM the true vine...*"

B. Jesus was claiming to be the same God who spoke to Moses at the burning bush. He told the Pharisees, "*Before Abraham was, I AM*" (John 8:58).

➡ Ask God any question and His answer will always be, "*I AM.*"

- Who is going to watch over my children when they leave home? "*I AM.*"
- Who is going to take care of me in old age? "*I AM.*"
- What's the use in living? "*I AM.*"
- Who is going to set me free from this bondage? "*I AM.*"
- Who is going to get me through this problem? "*I AM.*"
- The list goes on, but I assure you, each ends with "*I AM.*"

III. The **PROPOSAL** Jesus offers—"*...IF any man enter in...*"

A. The **POSSIBILITY**—"*If ANY man...*" I love those words, don't you? Not just a select few—"*If ANY man...*"

- Mark 4:23— *If any man have ears to hear, let him hear.*

- John 6:51—“*I am the living bread ... if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever.*”
- John 7:37—“*If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.*”
- 2 Cor. 5:20—“*...if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature*”
- Rev. 3:20—“*...if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come into him...*”

➡ Whosoever will — Every one / any one—without exception!

B. The **PREREQUISITE** —“*...enter in...*”

➡ People of Noah’s day had to COME INTO THE ARK to be saved.

➡ One step made the difference whether you are in or out. **One step of faith.** Simply believe and receive!

- You don’t have to know the laws of gravitation to know how to walk.
- You don’t have to know the major and minor scales to enjoy music.
- You don’t have to understand the process of digestion to enjoy a Krispy Kreme donut.
- You don’t have to know the positive and negative charges of electricity to turn on a light switch.
- You don’t have to know and understand all the Bible to be saved. You just need to believe and receive Christ.

IV. The PROMISE Jesus keeps—“*...he shall be saved...*”

➡ No doubt about it!!! When God makes a promise, He keeps it!

- A. Saved from sin.
- B. Saved from burning in hell forever.
- C. Saved from a meaningless life.
- D. Saved for ever.

V. The PASTURE Jesus assures—“*...and shall go in and out and find pasture.*”

➡ Jesus is “*the door*” of salvation for the lost.

➡ Jesus is “*the door*” of all spiritual blessings for the saved (v. 10).

- A. Pasture of PLENTY (v. 10). Not a desert, swamp, wilderness, or barren wasteland. No! An ABUNDANT life!
- B Pasture of LIBERTY. He "*shall go in and out.*" Not a prison-door, but a door of freedom.
 - All the gates in the wall around Jerusalem had locks and bars on them except one—THE SHEEP GATE.

SUMMATION: The door avails nothing unless one enters by it! To be near the door is not to be inside the door of salvation. One preacher put it this way— Judas kissed the door of heaven and went to hell.

On one side of Jesus, the door, is eternal life/heaven; on the other side is eternal death/hell. **The difference between the two is a door!**

➡ Fanny Crosby wrote a hymn titled "*Only A Step.*" It says,

Only a step to Jesus!
Then why not take it *now?*

So simple! So profound! So essential!