

## **Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ**

### **I AM the Door**

Last time...the man born blind

- the “object” of the question regarding the thorny problem of human suffering
- anointed with clay by Jesus
- believed the Word of Jesus...Go and wash
- received sight from Jesus...on the Sabbath day
- was interrogated by the joyless and merciless Pharisees
- was excommunicated from the Temple by the Pharisees
- was sought for and found by Jesus

This time...Jesus has a message for the sheep and the shepherds of Israel

The case of the healed and excommunicated man is used by Jesus in a teaching moment showing a sharp contrast between Jesus and the Pharisees

The account from last week continues in John 10

v1-2 Verily, verily, I say unto you:

Truly, truly (repetition declares emphasis), I say unto you

Jesus Christ, the Prophet foretold by Moses (Deut 18:15-19) never said,  
“Thus saith the Lord”

The last time that phrase was spoken in Israel was 400 years previously,  
by Malachi (Mal 1:4)

Why did Jesus never say what all the prophets said?

Because He is the LORD, speaking directly to the people, not thru a prophet  
Instead...I say unto you

He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold...thief...robber:

The context is the man born blind that was healed by Jesus, then roughly treated  
and excommunicated from the Temple by the Pharisees

This teaching by Jesus is a continuation of John 9:39-41

The teaching is to the “shepherds”, the Pharisees, but is also being heard by:

- the excommunicated man
- His disciples/followers

This imagery would be immediately understood by the audience...  
but not so much to us

sheepfold: a walled enclosure (built with rocks) in which sheep were kept at night...a place of safety and refuge during a time of danger

In a sheepfold, the sheep (defenseless, nervous, “dull”) would be protected from

- wild animals/predators
- thieves and robbers
- from wandering off into the night, becoming
  - Wolf Chow
  - lost

The sheepfold had a door...one and only one door

If a man had good intentions for the sheep, he would enter in by the door.  
Such a man is the shepherd

But if a man had evil intentions for the sheep and self-serving intentions for himself, he would not enter the sheepfold by the door but would climb in over the wall.

Such a man with selfish, evil intentions was a

- thief – taking that which is not his by cunning, deceit
- robber – taking that which is not his by violence

door: The (good) shepherd enters by the door, the (evil) thief/robber does not use the door

The door of the sheepfold

- by which the sheep are safe
- by which they come and go safely

is The Way of Redemption

v3-4 the porter openeth:

At the door overnight while the sheep are in the sheepfold, is a porter

- door keeper/watchman (Ezk 3:17-27, to sound the alarm)
- “under-shepherd”

Jer 3:15

I will give you pastors according to mine heart,  
which shall feed you with knowledge and  
understanding

- pastor (“shepherd”)/teacher

Eph 4:11-12

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets;  
and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and  
teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the  
work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of  
Christ

At night, the porter stood watch (requiring alertness and faithfulness) while the shepherd(s) slept

In the sheepfold would be multiple flocks, and the sheep intermingled

In the morning the shepherd(s) would come to lead his/their flocks out to pasture. The porter was the one to open the door for the shepherd...and only for the shepherd, not for strangers and robbers

Each shepherd would call his sheep...by name, for he knew them individually, their character and their needs, their personalities and quirks

Each sheep would hear/recognize the voice of its shepherd...for the shepherd was always lovingly talking to his sheep

They knew his voice...a unique voice of the one who tended and fed them

Each sheep would respond to the voice of his shepherd...follow his voice

The shepherd would lead...take the point to be the first to encounter any danger...his flock from the security of the sheepfold to pasture and still waters

The shepherd did not drive his flock from behind like some Texas cowboy a herd of cattle

Also, in those days, it was almost a daily occurrence that shepherds leading their flock would

- cross paths with
- share pastures with
- share still waters with

other shepherds leading their flocks

The shepherds would visit/fellowship...and the sheep would again intermingle

When it was time to move on, each shepherd would again call his sheep, they would hear/recognize his voice, and follow him

There was no “getting on the wrong bus” for the sheep, the intermingled sheep never got mixed up

v5     stranger...not follow...flee:  
       Now a sheep might not be the sharpest tool in the shed but it knows the unique  
             voice of its shepherd!

       If the shepherd was John Wayne and he called them from the sheepfold or from  
             the intermingled crowd in the pasture or at the still waters, they would not  
             follow Rich Little or John Byner or any other John Wayne impersonator

       If the shepherd was Elvis Presley and the sheepfold was in Las Vegas, they  
             would not follow any Elvis impersonator

       The voice of their shepherd was absolutely unique;  
             maybe mimicked but could never be duplicated

       If the voice they heard was an impersonator, a counterfeit, a strange/  
             false shepherd, the sheep would respond – by fleeing  
       They knew there was a mortal danger in any voice not their shepherd's

v6     parable...understood not:  
       A teaching in parable form regarding His identity and God's Plan of Redemption  
       But they, the Pharisees, did not understand...  
             because they did not believe His words

John 8:43-47...they were not His sheep

       Yet they...and His disciples and the healed and excommunicated man...  
             must understand, it is a matter of life and death  
       So Jesus explains the parable

       Note: man does not explain the parable, Jesus does  
             Sola Scriptura...the Word of God interprets the Word of God

v7 Verily, verily:  
Jesus starts the explanation of the parable exactly as He started the parable:

Truly, truly (emphasis), I say unto you  
Not, “Thus saith the Lord” because He is the LORD, speaking directly  
to the people, not thru a prophet

I AM the Door of the sheep:  
I AM...again, Ex 3:14...a declaration of His eternal, Self-Existent Deity

The Door is the Way of Redemption for man  
The: singular, exclusive, only

There is NO other way to be redeemed/ransomed from sin, death, and  
judgment/condemnation but by the Person and work of the Son of God

NO works of man  
NO other door  
NO other way  
NO other Messiah

Sola Christ  
Sola Faith  
Sola Grace

v1-2...those who enter by the Door are of Jesus (ministers of Life),  
those who enter not by the Door are not of Jesus (ministers of Death)

v8 All...before Me are thieves and robbers:  
NOT Moses (Law) and Elijah (Prophets), or John the Baptist,  
who were before Jesus in time and testified/bore witness of Jesus Christ

But

- those who claimed to be Messiah...false messiahs, counterfeits
- false teachers, false prophets...strangers  
(I knew you not, I sent you not)
- religious systems (salvation by works)
- Pharisees (Ch 9:34)

v9 I AM the door...if any man...shall be saved:  
John 14:6

Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name  
under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Prov 8:20 I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of  
judgment

if any man...whosoever will, so choose of his own free will  
(the decision is made by man, not by God...  
but God foreknows all decisions)

enter in...the sheepfold, the place of eternal safety and refuge  
sheep cannot climb so the only way a sheep can enter into the sheepfold is  
by the one and only door

shall be saved...from death, the wages of sin  
from wrath, the judgment of a holy and offended God

shall go in and out and find pasture...live safely, even when danger is present,  
because the Good Shepherd is on point

v10 the thief...I am come:

The stranger/impersonator/counterfeit/thief comes to profit himself at the expense  
of the sheep...to kill and destroy them for his personal gain  
The thief is an agent of the liar, murderer, destroyer...John 8:44

But Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Son of Man, the Seed of the Woman has  
come that the sheep might have life...

those who hear His voice and follow Him have life

those who do not hear His voice and do not follow Him do not  
have life

and have life more abundantly...God's eternal life

1 John 5:11-13

Heb 2:14-17

Sola Christ

Sola Faith

Sola Grace

Sola Scriptura

## Application

Biblical Christianity is a personal relationship with the Living God,  
based on His work,  
a gift of God received by faith,  
an invitation into eternal life accepted by faith

Biblical Christianity is not a religious system,  
based on man's work (Is 64:6),  
a wage earned

Simple reality:

Man is separated from God by sin...nature and works (Is 59:2)  
The finite (man, creature) cannot reach to the Infinite (God, Creator)  
The Infinite must reach out to the finite if there is to be reconciliation

There is One Door...one and only one Way to Redemption and reconciliation – Jesus Christ

There is One (Good) Shepherd that knows His sheep, calls His sheep, protects His sheep  
(more next week)

There are faithful under-shepherds/porters who open the Word of God so the sheep can hear the shepherd's voice

Neh 8:2-3, 8 Ezra the priest brought the law before the congregation both of men and women, and all that could hear with understanding, upon the first day of the seventh month. And he read therein before the street that *was* before the water gate from the morning until midday, before the men and the women, and those that could understand; and the ears of all the people *were attentive* unto the book of the law. So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused *them* to understand the reading.

Including...fathers, mothers, grandparents

There are thieves and robbers that seek to kill and destroy  
False teachers, false prophets, counterfeit christs, religious systems

Any man or angel that says there is another way is a thief and a robber

Gal 1:6-9

Salvation by works (Jesus Plus) is a ticket to eternal death

Gal 3:3 – the work of the flesh, the world, and the devil

Rev 2:4-5

No man is the Door  
Sheepfold  
Shepherd  
Jesus Christ always is

We are sheep  
Jesus Christ never is

How do we know if we are one of Jesus' sheep?  
Have you responded to His call?  
"Follow Me"  
"Deny yourself, pick up your cross, and follow Me"

Then we learn His voice (thereby being alerted to the voices of strangers)

Acts 17:11     Be a Berean... received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so

1 John 4:1     Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

Rev 2:2        **Thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:**

Little flock, know the voice of the Good Shepherd...know the Word of God

Jer 9:24       But let him that glories glory in this, that he understands and knows me, that I *am* the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these *things* I delight, saith the LORD.

Can a church that practices a religious system, that Jesus calls people out of,  
be a sheepfold?

Can a church that does not teach the Word of God be a sheepfold?

Can a church where Jesus is on the outside, knocking to be let in, be a sheepfold?

Unbeliever, are you fearful in this dark and dangerous world?

Come into the Sheepfold, the only place of safety and refuge

Enter in by Jesus Christ, the one and only Door into the Sheepfold