

Series: The I AM Claims of Jesus
Today: John 10:1-10 I am the Gate (Door)
Rev. Thomas Parrish

If Jesus, the great I AM, is the door/gate, then how does that affect the life we live here and now?

If you are a studious Bible student you will notice that there is no break in the narrative from chapter 9 to 10 to warrant the chapter break. In other words it is all one story in chapters 9 & 10. **In chapter 9 a man who was born blind has been healed. However, the irony of this healing is that the religious leaders think they can see when in fact they are the blind ones.**

Only those who recognize that they are in the darkness and in need of the light will be forgiven by Jesus, the true light. But those who think they see clearly now will remain in the darkness and will never see the truth.

Jesus transitions into a discussion about sheep and shepherds. Shepherding is a hard business. That means every night, wherever the sheep roam, the shepherd has to build a stockade from branches, brush, rocks, to corral the sheep for the night and keep the predators out.



THE SHEPHERD THEN LAYS DOWN IN THE OPENING TO KEEP THE SHEEP IN AND THE WOLVES OUT.

This is why Jesus could say: I AM THE GATE/DOOR TO LIFE.

10 “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.



Jesus begins with an illustration. Jesus is describing his role.

Verse 3 is the key to this first illustration. ³ “To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 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.

How do you hear Jesus’ voice today, especially in prayer? How should you and I listen to Jesus the rest of the time when we pray at home, work, or school?

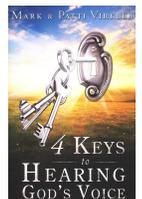
4 KEYS TO HEARING GOD’ VOICE

Stillness: Quiet yourself so you can hear Jesus’ voice.

Vision: Looking for vision as you pray. (Insight, ideas, etc)

Spontaneity: Recognize Jesus’ voice as spontaneous thoughts light up your mind

Journaling: Write down the flow of thoughts and pictures that light up your mind.



Where do these ideas come from? Habakkuk 2:1-3

I will take my stand at my watchpost and station myself on the tower, and look out to see what he will say to me, and what I will answer concerning my complaint. ² And the LORD answered me: “Write the vision; make it plain on tablets,

so he may run who reads it. ³ *For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end—it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay.*

Habakkuk points out that there are four keys to hearing God’s Voice in Jesus.

I will stand on my watchpost (be still).

I will keep watch to see (fix your eyes on Jesus).

He will speak to me (tune in to spontaneity).

Then the Lord answered me and said, “Record the Vision”.

(Write the flow of thoughts and pictures that light up your heart and mind.)

Why keep a journal? Sometimes the Lord’s voice is like a puzzle. You get a piece at a time. Journaling is like putting a puzzle together, the big picture emerges from the small pieces.

When the sheep, you and me, hear the voice of Jesus we must:

- Change any previous attitudes or belief we have.
- We must agree with Jesus.
- We must put his word into action asap.
- We must continue to hear Jesus even when others reject us or curse us.

Why Jesus Is Gathering His Sheep (10:7-10) 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.*

Notice what Jesus says in verse 8. A serious charge against all the leaders before Jesus. The prophets repeatedly condemned the leaders of Israel for harming God’s sheep (Ezekiel 34; Isaiah 56:9-12; Jeremiah 25:32-38).

Jeremiah 23:1-4. *“Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!” declares the LORD. (Jeremiah 23:1 ESV)*

⁹ *I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.*

Notice the three things that Jesus is offering for those who come through him.

First, whoever enters by Jesus will be saved.

Second, whoever enters by Jesus will be inwardly secure.

Third, whoever enters by Jesus will be satisfied.

What is Jesus declaring? Because he is the great “I AM”, God among us, he proclaims that the:

Abundant life is in following HIM alone.

The abundant life has nothing to do with having stuff!

Jesus is offering the full life we are intended to live.

Jesus is offering the abundant life.

Over the past year I have shared with you again and again and again that you:

Are not here at this time by chance.

Jesus knew you and your purpose before you were ever created in your mother’s womb.

He knows everything about you and still loves you.

He has already given you the grace and faith to surrender your life to him.

You are meant to grow into the likeness of Jesus, being a disciple, for the rest of your life.

You are now his Ministers of Reconciliation.

You are now his Ambassadors of the Gospel.

Through you, the lost will hear the good news of Jesus and their lives will be changed.