

# The Gate Shepherd

John 10:7-10

East Berlin Community Church

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August 16, 2020

## Introduction

- The internet as the “business” highway.
- Website Portals—security measures to keep confidential information private
- Jesus Christ as the “Genuine” Shepherd
  - Illustration of the “communal” sheepfold
  - Jesus Christ, as the genuine shepherd, came through the prescribed door of fulfilled prophecy, was recognized by the doorkeeper, John the Baptist, and was followed by His own sheep.
    - John 10:16-- *“And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.”*

## The Gate Shepherd

### A. The Illustration: Afternoon Sheepfold—John 10:7-10

- John 10:7-10-- *“Then Jesus said to them again, ‘Most assuredly I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.’”*

### B. The Claim: I am the door!

#### 1. Jesus is not the first to make such a claim.

##### a. Identification of “all who ever came before me”

- John 10:8-- *“All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them.”*

##### 1) Not the true spiritual leaders like Moses, David, Isaiah

##### 2) Included the current religious leaders

###### a) Like the false shepherds of Ezekiel 34:2-4

- Ezekiel 34:2-4--*“Thus says the LORD God to the shepherds: Woe to the shepherds of Israel who feed themselves! Should not the shepherd feed the flocks? You eat the fat and clothe yourselves with the wool; you slaughter the fatlings, but you do not feed the flock. The weak you have not strengthened, nor have you healed those who were sick, nor bound up the broken, nor brought back what was driven away, nor sought what was lost; but with force and cruelty you have ruled them.”*

###### b) Full of extortion and self-indulgence

- Matthew 23:25--*“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence”*

##### 3) Includes the false teachers who came after Jesus too.

- Matthew 7:15-16a--*“Beware of the false prophets who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits.”*
- Acts 20:29-30-- *“For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves, men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.”*
- 2 Peter 2:1-3a-- *“But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false prophets among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words.”*

##### b. The “sheep did not hear them”

- 1 John 2:20--*“But you have an anointing from the Holy one, and you know all things.”*

## 2. The Connection between the “Door” and “Abundant Life”

- John 10:10--*“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill and to destroy. I have come that they might have life, and that they may have it be more abundantly.”*
- a. **The purposes of a physical door**
  - 1) To keep the “unwanted” out of our homes
  - 2) To exit from our homes
- b. **Jesus, as our door, protects his own! Our Security**
  - 1) **Only Jesus saves! Salvation in none other**
    - John 10:9a--*“If any enters by Me, he will be saved.”*
    - Acts 4:11-12--*“the stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone. Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven, given among men by which we must be saved!”*
  - 2) **Jesus is the narrow gate into heaven**
    - Matthew 7:13-14--*“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way that leads to life, and there are few who find it.”*
    - John 14:6--*“I AM the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me!”*
  - 3) **To be saved is to be given life**
    - a) **Eternal life**
      - John 10:26-28--*“But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you. My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.”*
    - b) **Abundant life here and now**
      - (1) **Peace**
        - John 14:27--*“Peace I leave with you. My peace I give you; not as the world gives do I give you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”*
        - Philippians 4:7--*“the peace of God which surpasses understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”*
      - (2) **Contentment**
        - Philippians 4:11-12-- *“I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and suffer need.”*
        - Philippians 4:13--*“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”*
- c. **Jesus, as our door, is the gateway to abundant life—10:9**
  - John 10:9--*“I am the door: If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.”*
  - 1) **We are FREE to move about the pasture**
    - a) **Not under legalism with rule and regulations**
      - Luke 11:46--*“Woe to you also, lawyers! For you load men with burdens hard to bear, and you yourselves do not touch the burdens with one of your fingers.”*
    - b) **But free in Christ to live under light rules**
      - Matthew 11:28-30--*“Come unto Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”*
      - Galatians 5:13--*“For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”*
  - 2) **We find FULFILLMENT in Christ**
    - a) **Jesus Christ as the Psalm 23 shepherd**
      - Psalm 23:2-3--*“makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the path of righteousness for His name’s sake.”*
      - Psalm 23:1 (NLT)-- *“The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need.”*
    - b) **We have everything that we need in Christ!**