

7 “I Am” sayings of Jesus”

1. “I am the the bread of life...” - John 6
2. “I am the light of the world...” - John 8 & 9
3. “I am the door...” - John 10
4. “I am the good shepherd...” - John 10
5. “I am the resurrection and the life...” - John 11
6. “I am the way, truth, and life...” - John 14
7. “I am the true vine...” - John 15

Who is Jesus? - bread to feed upon, the light to follow, the door to enter, the shepherd to guide, the resurrection to wait upon, the way to live, the vine to abide within.

Last Week:

- Jesus is the bread of life - He supplies all we need
- Jesus is the light of the world - He shows us the work of God in the world
- Jesus is the door - He keeps us safe and secure
- Jesus is the good shepherd - He protects and fights for us

I am the door and good shepherd...

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. 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.

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. 11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 He 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. 13 He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 And 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. 17 For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. 18 No 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.”

*19 There was again a division among the Jews because of these words. 20 Many of them said, “He has a demon, and is insane; why listen to him?” 21 Others said, “These are not the words of one who is oppressed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”
(John 10:1-21)*

“I Am the Door and Good Shepherd...”

1. The Sheep know their shepherd (1-6)

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. 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.

- a. Sheepfold- stone walls, gatekeeper laid down and slept in only opening
 - i. Only way in was through the gatekeeper
 - ii. Usually more than one flock in the fold
- b. Sheep know their shepherd - opens, listen, hear, lead
- c. Sheep only follow their shepherd, not strangers

2. “The Door” secures the sheep (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.

- a. His sheep are safe because he guards the door
- b. Only way in the fold is through the door
- c. He guards his sheep so that they may have abundant life
 - i. Lead them to green pastures and still waters - Psalm 23

3. The “good shepherd” protects the sheep (11-15)

11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 He 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. 13 He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.

- a. Sheep know their shepherd
- b. Shepherd protects the sheep from danger
- c. Deeply cares for his sheep, unlike the hired hand who cares for his wages

4. The Shepherd saves all his sheep (16-18)

16 And 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. 17 For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. 18 No 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.”

- a. Other sheep - gentiles, jews, all cultures unified into one flock with one shepherd
- b. The Father loves Jesus -> Jesus mimics the example from the father, loves the sheep like the father loves Him
- c. Jesus willingly dies for all of his sheep, Cross - death burial and resurrection

How To Be Part of the Flock

1. Follow Jesus
 - a. Sheep don't follow strangers, they follow who they trust
 - b. Follow Jesus not strangers
 - i. Strangers - distractions of other religions, practices, secular desires
2. Trust Jesus
 - a. Leads us away from danger (obedience)
 - b. He is the protector and defender when attackers come against us
3. Believe in Jesus
 - a. Faith in the passion of Jesus
 - b. Laid down his life for our sins
 - i. Not suicide but as a shepherd who dies protecting his sheep from mortal danger
 - ii. Sin puts us in eternal mortal danger

Discussion Questions

- Jesus compares his relationship with us to that of a shepherd and their sheep, what does this look like to you?
 - If you were to make a similar comparison today, what could be a more modern example?
- Jesus said his sheep hear and know His voice, what does this mean for us?
- The bible points out that the disciples did not understand Jesus at first, why do you think this is mentioned?
 - What does this say about the disciples
 - What does this say about what Jesus does next?
- Why does Jesus call himself the door to the sheep? What does this tell us about Him?
- In the comparison Jesus is making, how is He different than the thieves and robbers?
- Jesus calls himself the good shepherd, how is He better than the “hired hand”?
- Jesus said there were other sheep not of this fold, what does that mean?
 - Who are the additional sheep?
- How would you explain the relationship between a good shepherd and their sheep?
- How would you explain the comparison Jesus makes?
 - Jesus = Good Shepherd
 - Christians = Sheep
- From the verses we looked at, what are the benefits of following Jesus?
- How might someone become part of the “flock”?