

The I Am Statements- Jesus Testimony Pt 3

John 10:1-10

- We are now on the third of Jesus great “I Am statements” where He tells all of mankind exactly Who He is, why He’s come, and what He will do, the problem is man doesn’t listen. John chapter 10 is where we read about a man who after Jesus healed both his **natural eyes** (he was born blind), and his **spiritual eyes** (he receives Jesus as his Lord), is rejected by man, and yet he is sought after, found, and invited to follow Jesus, which he accepts.
- In this chapter Jesus makes three bold declarations about Himself that man hears but refuses to believe, including multiple “I Am statements” and where He declares Himself as “**The Son of God**” also, still even today people refuse to take what He said seriously. Praise God that what people believe doesn’t determine whether Jesus words are true or false, as Jesus Words stand on their own, therefore if He said it, then that is what makes it true.

V1-10

- **V1-2** before Jesus gets into His first “**I Am statement**” He first addresses us those who would follow Him, and He calls us sheep. In identifying us as sheep He mentions an enclosure made up of rocks in which the sheep are kept safe from the elements and predators. The sheepfold has one opening in which the sheep would come inside the enclosure or leave the enclosure, and at night the shepherd would lay across the opening so that no sheep would wander out and get lost or killed or a predator could come in.
- Anyone who have not been spending time with the sheep, laying across the doorway of the sheepfold protecting the sheep, if they were to try and enter into their place of safety through any other doorway was equivalent to a thief and a robber. Jesus is setting the stage for the people to see a stark difference between Him and the religious leaders, who only cared about their own well being and not that of the people or the nation of Israel.
- **V3-6** we see another person which is called “**a doorkeeper**” this is the one who watches who comes in and who goes out, and he knows who it is that is he true shepherd and he grants him access. To understand this you had to know the state of the times, in towns during this time sheep from many flocks were kept for the night in a common sheepfold, which was overseen by one doorkeeper, who regulated which sheep the shepherds brought, and which sheep the shepherds took, for that he had to pay careful attention.
- It wasn’t just doorkeeper that determined what shepherd took which sheep but the sheep themselves as each shepherd had a unique call in which only his sheep recognized and would come to him. This showed how the shepherd had a personal connection with their sheep allowing him to direct them, and lead them, where he was going. Notice it also says if a stranger calls out to them and tries to lead them they will not come to them, as they do not recognize their voice, this is what separates a true shepherd from a counterfeit.

- Spiritually speaking, it's the same for any true believer, when you get saved it is not because you simply heard the voice or words of an individual, yes they may have helped you understand things better, or given you more clarity, but what you really heard was the call of God. Which is why when you hear any other teaching or voice, saying this is the way and not Jesus, you don't follow but you avoid, because you follow His voice not someone else's.
- **V7-10** now we come to the first "**I Am statement**" as Jesus now says "I Am The Door of the sheep" the idea here is that there is a door, a proper way to gain entry when it comes to God. He even tell us how we can recognize Who the True Shepherd is, as He will come through the legitimate and designed way, through love, calling, care, and sacrificial service.
- But as **V1** says not everyone who is calling out for the sheep is trying to come that way, some will try and climb up some other way, and those who do will not have your best interest at heart. **V8** repeats what **V1** says how people will try and use other means to try and get the sheep to follow their voices > "thief" implies deception and trickery, "robber" violence and destruction, these take away life but Jesus says He's come to give life, and He gives it abundantly, which is why **V9** if anyone enters by Him he will be saved.
- "**Saved**" means delivered safe and sound, Jesus delivers sinners from bondage and leads us into freedom, where we now experience peace instead of chaos. This is why Jesus says they will go in and out and find pasture, good grazing grounds, where they can grow and mature into healthy sheep.
- If one is born again God is going to speak into our ears and let us know whether what were hearing, eating, and taking in, is healthy spiritual food, the question is are we going to listen to Him, or are we going to follow someone else's or our own voice. When Jesus is exercising a Shepherd's care over us then we will see a settled and satisfied life enjoyed by His sheep.