

# 05/17/20 Sermon Notes

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Part of Just Getting Started A series on the Gospel of John  
May 15, 2020

## Message: I Am

### Series: Just Getting Started

Recap: We're in the 16th week of this series on the Gospel of John. Written by one of many Johns in Scripture, this was the disciple who Jesus loved. Matthew, Mark, and Luke are synoptic gospels (they are similar in structure and content) but John is different. He wrote his gospel to the world, to you. John tells the story of Jesus' life, ministry, death, resurrection, and it tells the story that through Jesus, you're Just Getting Started!

## The Shepherd and His Sheep

Today we're in John 10 – the last public address from Jesus that John records. Today we're also focusing on the “I Am” statements of Jesus. They're not all in this passage, but in...

### ***John 6:35***

- I am the Bread of Life

### ***John 8:12***

- I am the LIGHT of the world

And in John 10, five times Jesus uses the “I Am” statement.

### ***John 10:1-5 (NLT)***

1 “I tell you the truth, anyone who sneaks over the wall of a sheepfold, rather than going through the gate, must surely be a thief and a robber!

2 But the one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.

3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep recognize his voice and come to him. He calls his own sheep by name and leads

them out.

4 After he has gathered his own flock, he walks ahead of them, and they follow him because they know his voice.

5 They won't follow a stranger; they will run from him because they don't know his voice."

The Bible continuously references the words sheep and shepherd. Sheep were a primary source of income (the quality and quantity of your sheep were a sign of your wealth). In the Old Testament, the chief animal used for sacrifice was a sheep. Think about it... every time a sheep was sacrificed, the person was losing money. It was truly a sacrifice. Sheep were used for milk, wool, their skin for coats (people wore them with skin out, wool close to their body), their horns used as a liquid container (water and oil).

### ***Job 42:12***

- Job had 14,000 sheep

### ***1 Kings 8:63***

- At the dedication of Solomon's temple, they sacrificed 120,000 sheep

Even though sheep were vital and reflected wealth, the job of shepherd was anything but prestigious. It was hard, dirty, lonely, and frustrating (sheep are dumb). They follow their shepherd (the sound of his voice) regardless if they're being led off a cliff, or simply to a stream of water - the sheep will follow.

Jesus was trying to use language they'd understand, referring to them as sheep and he as their shepherd. Yet, they didn't understand. It didn't make sense why he was claiming to be the Messiah (a King) yet comparing himself to a shepherd. They thought he was making fun, and blaspheming God (the real God). Jesus showed them love, forgiveness, and grace!

### ***John 10:1-6-10 (NLT)***

6 Those who heard Jesus use this illustration didn't understand what he meant,

7 so he explained it to them: "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep.

8 All who came before me were thieves and robbers. But the true

sheep did not listen to them.

9 Yes, I am the gate. Those who come in through me will be saved.

They will come and go freely and will find good pastures.

10 The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

- I am the GATE
- Jesus is the door to SALVATION

Verse 10 says the thief's purpose is to steal, kill, and destroy. It reminds us of **1 Peter 5:8** where the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to eat (devour). That means Jesus is the opposite of that. Jesus doesn't steal. He doesn't take, he gives! Jesus doesn't kill. He doesn't take away life, he gives life! Jesus doesn't destroy. He takes a messed up, dirty life, and makes something brand new! Jesus is the gate... Jesus is the door!

### ***John 10:11,14-16 (NLT)***

11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep.

14 "I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me,

15 just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice my life for the sheep.

16 I have other sheep, too, that are not in this sheepfold. I must bring them also. They will listen to my voice, and there will be one flock with one shepherd.

- I am the GOOD SHEPHERD

The bad shepherds must be the Sadducees and Pharisees. Literally, Jesus is saying, "I'm the good one!" The word translated good means honest, fair, honorable... good. It's a picture of an ideal shepherd, a model to follow.

*Our Lord's goodness was inherent in His nature. To call Him "good" is the same as calling Him "God"*

*—Warren Wiersbe*

The good shepherd sacrifices his life for his sheep!

**1 Samuel 17:35** is where David said he'd go after the enemy with a club and rescue the lamb from its mouth. David said if it turned on him, he'd catch it and kill it! Jesus takes it a step further and says if I must die in the process, I will die for my sheep! I will be the sacrifice for my sheep.

Verse 16 indicates Jesus has other sheep too. Jesus welcomes everyone. He's inclusive which means there's room for you!

The people rejected Jesus. They tried to kill (stone) him. They accused him of being demon possessed. But the story doesn't end there. Not all of the people turned against him (some listened to him).

## **Riding the Fence of Belief**

### ***John 10:24-30 (NLT)***

24 The people surrounded him and asked, "How long are you going to keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."

25 Jesus replied, "I have already told you, and you don't believe me. The proof is the work I do in my Father's name.

26 But you don't believe me because you are not my sheep.

27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from me,

29 for my Father has given them to me, and he is more powerful than anyone else. No one can snatch them from the Father's hand.

30 The Father and I are one."

Jesus told them - you don't know who I am because you're not my sheep (v26).

*People who spend their lives headed straight for hell don't realize you can't have one foot in hell and one foot in heaven. It just doesn't work that way! Jesus wants all of you and the fact is, it's all or nothing.*

*—Pastor Chad*

Then Jesus uses words that are used so often to describe how much God loves us - how safe and secure we are in His arms (in v28 and repeated in v29) - no one can snatch you away from the Father's hand.

*There are many who think they're in the palm of his hand, and they're not! There are many who think they're safe and secure, and they're not! There are many who think they have a golden ticket to heaven, and they don't!*

*—Pastor Chad*

When people look at you – do they see someone who is defeated and deflated – or do they see someone who is filled, overflowing, and reflecting Jesus?

*You can't follow Jesus when you're wallowing in your worry or destructing in your defeat!*

*—Pastor Chad*

### ***John 10:38 (NLT)***

But if I do his work, believe in the evidence of the miraculous works I have done, even if you don't believe me. Then you will know and understand that the Father is in me, and I am in the Father.

- I am IN THE FATHER

## **Jesus is your “I Am”**

Don't miss him! Choose Jesus today!