

The Shepherd Of Our Lives

John 10:7-10
Study Guide

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

Life Lifting Message

Introduction

Jesus claims to be the Door of the sheep. Jesus is probably referring to the door of a community sheepfold or a community pasture which housed all the flocks of an area. There is, however, another descriptive picture of Jesus as the door. When the sheep were kept out in the hill country overnight, they were kept in ravines surrounded by several rocky walls. Naturally, the opening into these ravines had no door at all. The shepherd himself literally became the door, for during the night he would simply lie across the opening. The sheep could get out only by going over him, and the enemies of the sheep could get in to the sheep only by going through him. Access in or out was only through the shepherd.

1. **John 10:7-8 Jesus is the only Door of the sheep.** Note the words "**verily, verily**"; they stress the critical importance of what Jesus was about to say. By "door" Jesus meant He is the way or entrance into the sheepfold. Jesus Christ is the way...

- into God's presence
- into God's acceptance
- into salvation
- into the true church
- into heaven
- into the Kingdom of God
- into eternal life

Therefore, if a man wishes to enter where God is, he must enter the Door of Christ. A man enters God's sheepfold only through the Door of Christ, for Christ is the only Door into God's presence.

John 14:6 "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me".

Note: Jesus used the clear claim to deity: "I Am." This gives additional stress to His claim to be the *only Door* to God. Now note two points.

1. **All others who claim to be the door are thieves and robbers.** There are some who claim to be the door and to have the way to God. They claim to know the right way and to have the newest ideas and the latest truth and knowledge. They claim to have the right teaching, religion, works, maturity, philosophy, psychology, ideas, and novel concepts. They claim to be the door that opens into God's presence. But

Jesus says that they are thieves and robbers. They are out to steal the sheep, both their wool (possessions) and their lives (loyalty). They want both their wool and their lives, for if they have both they have the sheep's *permanent loyalty*.

[Jeremiah 23:4](#) "And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the LORD".

2. The proof that Jesus is the only Door and that all others are false doors is the sheep themselves.

The sheep do not hear the voices of false *doors*, not if they are the real sheep of the Shepherd. The real sheep of God know the Shepherd's voice and have the ability to discern it.

If they hear the voice of a false shepherd, they know that he and his sheepfold are false. His voice and message are not the voice and message of the true door, the Son of God Himself.

[John 10:14](#)"I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine".

[John 10:27-28](#)"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand".

2. [John 10:9](#) Jesus is the only door that leads to salvation. Jesus said that He is the Door that leads to three great things.

1. Jesus is the only door that opens to salvation.

[Acts 4:12](#)"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved".

[John 3:16-17](#)"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved".

2. Jesus is the only door that opens to peace and security. He is the only door that allows the sheep to *go in and out*. This was a common Jewish phrase. If a man could "go in and out" without difficulty or danger, it meant he was *safe and secure*. Jesus brings to the believer safety and security, peace and tranquillity.

[John 14:26](#) "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you".

[Isaiah 41:10](#) "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness".

3. Jesus is the only door that opens to healthy and lasting nourishment. He is the only door that leads to the true pasture, the pasture that has the living stream flowing through it and the pasture that has the living food in it.

a. His pasture alone can satisfy the soul.

[Psalm 107:9](#) "For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness".

Isaiah 58:11 "And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not".

b. His pasture alone can restore the soul.

Psalms 23:2-3 "He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake".

c. His pasture alone can give life and give it forever.

John 6:51 "I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world".

d. His pasture alone can feed with knowledge and understanding.

Jeremiah 3:15 "And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding".

3. **John 10:10** Jesus Christ, the Door: Jesus is the only door that leads to abundant life. This is a sharp contrast between the thief and Christ.

1. The person who says there is another door is a thief and a robber. The person steals and kills and destroys the sheep. The thief misleads and deceives the sheep, leading them through a door that leads to destruction.

There are some who definitely want the wool and life of the sheep (false and liberal religions and false philosophies). They want the sheep to follow them and their position, so they do all they can to secure the sheep's...

- loyalty
- allegiance
- possessions
- time
- effort
- energy
- recognition
- praise
- honor

By leading the sheep away from the restrictiveness of Christ, the false teacher becomes a thief—a thief in that he steals the soul of the sheep from God and leads it into a sheepfold that will be destroyed. It causes the sheep never to know the true Shepherd.

2. Jesus came not to steal life, but to give abundant life

Living in abundance is a biblical promise. It is not just about financial abundance, but rather having a quality of life. Of course, there is an element of financial blessing that is part of that, but God wants us to have abundance in all areas. What good is having lots of money if you are emotionally imbalanced or bound by some incurable illness? That wouldn't be an abundant life either.

Proverbs 10:22 KJV The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.

Jesus came and declared a promise of abundance and He made it clear it's the enemy who comes to rob us of that. The enemy comes to take your joy of living by inundating you with difficulties. Declare in faith today that you will always live in God's promises for abundance and that you will always have a good quality of life!

LIFE ABUNDANTLY DECLARATION

I decree that you live a life filled with abundance. I say your quality of life improves and excels. May the abundant life of the Lord Jesus surround you. I declare that no evil spirit of lack, or depletion can interrupt the abundance and sufficiency God has supplied for you. Every thief that would come to steal, kill, or destroy is bound in the Name of Jesus! I prophesy that insufficiency is turned into plenty. I declare you live with nothing missing and nothing broken. I say you live abundantly spiritually, physically, and emotionally. I say you have financial sufficiency and are bountiful in goods. May the joy and fun of living your life rest wholly upon you. I speak that you are able to do all the wonderful things you desire and are able to do so with strength and stamina. I declare that you have all sufficiency in all things and God's grace for plentiful living abounds toward you!