

January 19 & 20, 2019



The Sign: John 10:7

The Setting:

1. Judea was a land of sheep and shepherds.

Abraham, Moses and David were all shepherds.

2. In the Old Testament, God is often identified as a shepherd.

Psalm 23:1 *The LORD is my Shepherd...*

3. Jesus healed a blind man to illustrate spiritual blindness.

John 9:39 *Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind."*

40 *Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, "What? Are we blind too?"*

The Story:

1. The first figure of speech:

John 10:1 *"I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. 2 The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. 3 The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice." 6 Jesus used this figure of speech, but they did not understand what he was telling them.*

The sheep are the people of Israel.

The thieves and robbers are the Pharisees.

The shepherd is Jesus.

2. The second figure of speech: *I am the gate.*

John 10:7 *Therefore Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the gate; whoever enters*

*through me will be saved. He will come in and go out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.*

The sheep are the people of Israel.

The gate is Jesus.

The thieves and robbers are the religious establishment.

The motive of the thief is to steal, kill and destroy.

The motive of Jesus is to give life.

3. The third figure of speech: *I am the good shepherd.*

The Significance:

1. Jesus is our gate to eternal life.
2. Jesus is our gate to abundant life.
3. Jesus is the voice we must follow.

How to hear God's voice:

Believe in Jesus Christ as your gate to life

Revelation 3:20 *Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.*

Engage with a community of believers

1 Thessalonians 5:11 *Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.*

Study the word of God

Colossians 3:16 *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly . . .*

Thank God in all things

Colossians 3:17 *And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

Invest in praying for God's will to be done

Matthew 6:10 *your kingdom come, your will be done . . .*

Look for open doors

Colossians 4:3 *And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains.*

Love God and He will give you the right desires.

Psalms 37:4 *Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart.*