



July 3, 2022 - Pastor Jason Carter

I Am The Gate - John 10:1-10

To set up today's message - 'I AM the Gate' - we first need to go back in order to go forward. Let's review the story of the blind man in John chapter 9.

Read: [John 9:20-38 NIV](#)

There are two dynamics at play in this story: **Unbelief and incomplete information.** There is a difference between having unbelief and having incomplete information. The Pharisees had unbelief; the blind man had incomplete information.

- Unbelief is deadly. It is a predetermined choice that you will not believe. "If I could just see God do [xyz], then I would believe."

Jesus had declared He was the Light of the World to illuminate hearts with the truth of who He is. He was their living embodiment of Scripture, fulfilling everything the Old Testament said He would do.

The religious leaders, instead of taking in all of facts and believing, they chose to deny and remain blind.

- He was trying to reveal Himself to the religious leaders as well. They would not have it.

The blind man, on the other hand, is on the right track but has incorrect information; he is incorrect in his understanding of who Jesus is.

- He has information about God. "He opened my eyes. If He were not from God, he could do nothing. But we know God does not hear sinners."
- He had heard. He was familiar with what scripture said. He just experienced a miracle.

Jesus wanted to reveal Himself personally. Physically, the man was healed. Now Jesus wanted him to see spiritually.

Jesus is the light of the world and the light of our world. He wants to continue to reveal to us who he is in greater measure.

Salvation is not just information, it is ongoing revelation of who He is to us.

Ephesians 1:17-18 NLT *"¹⁷...asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom^[a] and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God. ¹⁸ I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance."*

Salvation means *ongoing* revelation of who Jesus is. There is always *more* of Him.

- He wants us to be spiritually illuminated

Read: John 10:10

⁷ Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. ⁹ I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved.^[a] They will come in and go out, and find pasture."

Good Shepherd/Door/Gate - Jesus

Sheep - Seekers of Jesus; Can be lead astray

Evil/Robbers - Religious leaders/Anyone who deters others from belief in Jesus

Sheep

What does Jesus want us to learn from sheep in this parable?

- Have you ever made a bad decision? Ever made a decision that hurt someone else? Ever done something you knew was wrong or dangerous, knew better, and did it anyway?
- Think you need no help and can do everything on your own? You may be a sheep
- In this parable we are the sheep
- Of all domesticated animals, sheep are the most helpless.
- Food and water are scarce. Predators are everywhere.
- They are also not the smartest animals
- Sheep will spend their entire day grazing, wandering from place to place, never looking up. As a result, they often become lost. But sheep have no "homing instinct" as other animals do. They are totally incapable of finding their way to their sheepfold even when it is in plain sight.
- By nature, sheep are followers. If the lead sheep steps off a cliff, the others will follow.
- **The main truth Jesus is wanting to share is people, like sheep, are susceptible.**
 - Susceptible to bad decisions, being misled, getting lost
- As for the religious leaders, they were misleading and manipulating the people

The Gate/ The Door: Jesus

What are we to learn from Jesus using this name?

- the shepherd of the sheep
- He has the responsibility to lead and care for the sheep, His people
- In the desert at night, sheep were often herded into walled enclosures that either backed up against a cliff face or were at the end of a canyon. Such enclosures (still used today) had waist-high stone walls topped with thorny branches. Such a pen was entirely for safety so that the sheep would not become prey to wild animals. One small doorway (or opening) in the wall served as the only entrance and exit. The shepherd would either close this area with dry thorn bushes or would himself serve as sentry in the opening.
- The shepherd becomes the entry and exit for the sheep. Literally lying down at the entry way of the pen for protection.
- Have you ever wondered why David in the OT was chosen? One reason is that he proved himself as a shepherd.
- The shepherd spent time with the sheep and the sheep recognized his voice.

Jesus, the Gate,
is *access* and
protection.

- In the Old Testament, Israel “heard God’s voice” when they obeyed the law and his message through his prophets. Those who were truly his sheep—in covenant relationship with God – knew him.
- Jesus is telling the parable to let the Pharisees know ‘You kicked this blind man out but I am the gate, not you.’
- The shepherd would lead the Sheep were led “in” and “out” (Num 27:17; 2 Sam 5:2) of the sheepfold to and from pasture. Several scholars have cited a modern example of shepherds sleeping across the gateway to serve both as shepherd and door, but Jesus probably alternates between images simply because he fulfills more than one role.
- *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.*” Look closer. Is the life of abundance leading you to bondage? Whose definition of abundance and freedom do we live by?
- Life to the full. What does that mean to you?
- There’s no other way to the Father or to heaven except through the Son

Thief/Robbers

V 1 – *“Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber.”*

What are we to learn from the thief/robbers example?

- The religious leaders should have known better
- They have predetermined no matter what to reject Jesus
- Jesus is still inviting even the religious teachers to follow and be a part
- This line of questioning also confirms that thief does not refer to Satan. However, thief and bandit are used as metaphors for the leaders of Israel in the Old Testament (Isa 1:23, Jer. 2:26, 7:11, 23:30).

Ezekiel 34:1-4 NIV *“The word of the Lord came to me: 2 “Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Woe to you shepherds of Israel who only take care of yourselves! Should not shepherds take care of the flock? 3 You eat the curds, clothe yourselves with the wool and slaughter the choice animals, but you do not take care of the flock. 4 You have not strengthened the weak or healed the sick or bound up the injured. You have not brought back the strays or searched for the lost. You have ruled them harshly and brutally.”*

- God says that he will remove these hired shepherds and replace them with himself. Jesus is doing the same thing in John 10.
- He speaks in a language they understand: scripture

- A thief/robber is any voice that draws people away from God, any voice that inflicts harm particularly on God's people. Jesus is remarkably bold with these people.
- In our world, there are many things that want to keep you from Jesus
- There aren't many paths to God. There cannot be many definitions of truth

⁷ Therefore Jesus said again, *"Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep."*

- I am the One...again answering what He promised

"⁸ All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. ⁹ I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved.^[a] They 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."

What do we take away from this passage?

- Anyone or anything that promises fulfillment and life outside of Jesus is a lie
- Jesus is the door. The entry way to salvation, access to the Father
- He is the protector - safety and rest
- Sometimes he shuts us in to keep us from encountering something we're not supposed to
- He is the He leads us moment by moment
- Relationship teaches us to recognize His voice, and His character teaches us to trust His leading
- The more we understand the heart of God, the more likely we are to engage with God. This is where transformation happens.

The more we understand the *heart of God*, we are more likely to *engage* God. This is where *transformation* happens.

What is your response today?

- Are you fearful or frustrated, and don't want to trust?
- Do you find yourself NOT wanting to be led?
- Are you trying to find a "way around" God's will and make things happen on our own, instead of trusting Jesus as the gate?
- Take some time to engage God in your heart and let Him highlight an area in your life that you can trust Him more.