

## **Signs: The Gospel of John, John 10:1-10**

### **Overview**

**v.v.1-6:** “Truly, Truly,” is a declaration to listen and an oath to the truthfulness and importance of a statement. “I tell you the truth,” would be a more contemporary paraphrase.

In ancient Palestine, shepherds would bring their flocks into pens (sheepfolds) at night to protect them from predators and thieves and robbers. The pens were mostly rock structures, 3-4' high with briars or brush put over the top to deter animals/men from climbing over the top. They only had one entrance/exit that would have been guarded by a gatekeeper or the shepherd himself. During the night the sheep would mix with other flocks, but in the morning the shepherd would call out to his sheep, and they would recognize his voice. Once the flock was reclaimed, the shepherd would lead them out.

The bible routinely uses the metaphor of a shepherd when it comes to leading God's people and Jesus is drawing a distinct line between himself, the Good Shepherd, and these Jewish leaders, the false shepherds, or “strangers.” The last verse of this section gives us the context of the preceding verses: Jesus is using an illustration to convey a deeper point—but they miss it.

**v.v.7-10:** Once again, Jesus repeats himself, clarifying his statement, drawing on the image of the sheep-gate to teach about himself—his person and his purpose. He also draws a line of distinction between himself and the Jewish leaders: “all who came before me are thieves and robbers.” He's not referring to the prophets of the OT, but to the corrupt leaders of Israel.

**Jesus is the “door/gate,” the only point of access for the sheep. He is the gateway to peace and provision, security and safety for the sheep.** The thief has one purpose: destruction, but Jesus has come that they may have life—abundantly! Abundantly: in GK.

“full, exceeding, more than enough, overflowing.” This is what Jesus is and brings to his sheep.

### “I am the Door”

**Jesus uses this “I am” statement and the allegory of shepherding to create an image of his purpose and person—who he is and why he has come.**

If Jesus is the door of the sheepfold, then we can understand this passage as meaning that He is the only way to safety from the enemies of God’s people. **We come into the safety of the arms of our Creator through Christ alone.** This allegory echoes a statement that Jesus will make later to his disciples, ***“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (Jn. 14:6)***

There is a sense of safety for the sheep in the sheepfold, and it is the same for us in Christ. **There is peace and rest in Jesus:** peace and rest from religion, from trying to live up to impossible standards—in Jesus we have a promise of peace, rest and security.

### Gospel

**Jesus is gathering a flock and still is today.**

**Jesus promises peace and provision.**

**It isn’t just about a “safe” life, it is about an abundance of life—real life, overflowing, deep and purposeful life. (Lk. 6:37-38)**

**There is an exclusivity to Jesus—this is one reason the world hates us, the exclusivity of Jesus. He is the only way, the only door to eternal safety, the only door to eternal life. The only door to God.**

Jn. 3:17-18; Matthew 7:13-14

