

The “I AM” sayings of Jesus

JOHN 10 – part 2

John 10:7 So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. ¹¹I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

¹⁹There was again a division among the Jews because of these words.

²⁰Many of them said, “He has a demon, and is insane; why listen to him?” ²¹Others said, “These are not the words of one who is oppressed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”

Application in Community: Freedom and autonomy are fundamental values of the American culture. We say things as if they are self-evident truths, like, “*If it is not hurting anyone else, then I can do what I want. No one has the right to tell me how to live.*” But is this perspective healthy? Socially?



We are relational creatures, made for life in community. And yet if we hold to the value of absolute freedom without constraint, what I do might hurt those around me who have invested in me, and thus, constraint to freedom in terms of morals is precisely what is needed to experience a truly fulfilled life. This is what the good Shepherd does (see John 10:1-18).

The world says, “*Do what you want.*” If I like to eat whatever I want, eventually the doctor will tell me that if I continue this lifestyle, I will have a heart attack and die, thus hurting my loved ones I leave behind. Same with lying, cheating, pornography, divorce, alcoholism, social media use, workaholicism, etc. These behaviors might not kill me, but they can isolate me or negatively impact my community. Each of these behaviors is rooted in the lie of the thief who wants to *steal, kill, and destroy*. In other words, the false ideology of absolute autonomy is rooted in selfishness, which does not result in true freedom, but rather slavery and destruction.

Contrast the lies of culture with the life of the good Shepherd, who constrained His freedom to lay down His life for the flock. He did this freely, of His own authority that you might have true freedom, abundant life.

Today’s Q’s follow this line of reasoning to help you find true freedom.

BI: I AM the good Shepherd who constrained My freedom to go to the cross

- I. The “good” Shepherd is [contrasted](#) with a hireling –
- II. The good Shepherd would [freely](#) lay down His life –
- III. Why did GOD the Father and GOD the Son choose the cross?

Application Q’s:

1. Read the above paragraphs and then evaluate the statement – “*You can do whatever you want to do so long as it doesn’t hurt anyone.*” – Do you agree or disagree? Why?
2. Read John 10:11-18 – Focus on the willing obedience of Jesus to do the Father’s will and to lay His life down for His sheep – how is this a life of freedom with proper constraint? Why is this noble?
3. Think of your life – are you living a life of freedom with proper constraint like the good Shepherd? Or freedom without constraint like a hireling? Which is more fulfilling?
4. The degree to which you understand the good Shepherd’s motive to restrain His freedom and lay down his life for His sheep is the degree to which you will live a life of true freedom in Christ, which is most fulfilling.

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