

Jesus is the Door

Rev. Lex DeLong / General

True Equity and the Greatest Love / John 10:1–19

Jesus, through His death and resurrection, is the only open door to abundant life that saves you from your own sin and brings you into safety and belonging.

Notes

07/14 John 10:1-19, "Jesus is the Door," Subtitle: Enter through the door, Scripture: John 14:1-6 Communion

Relationship to God is simple, but specific; it is exclusively one door through Jesus by which you can enter in.

John 10:1-6

To appreciate this parable it is important to understand its setting in a small Jewish village. Most village families owned a few sheep. The houses of the villagers had small walled courtyards where the sheep were kept. Because each family had only a few sheep, a shepherd for each household was not justified, so several households would have one shepherd to look after their sheep. Often the shepherding was done by a son (or two daughters) from one of these families. If such a person was not available a stranger/hireling was employed. Early each morning the sheep would be taken out to graze in the open country. The shepherd moved from house to house, and because he was known to the doorkeepers they opened their courtyard doors to allow him to call out the sheep. The sheep knew his voice and eagerly followed him into the open country to feed. The walls of the courtyards could be up to six and a half feet high. One who was not the shepherd, who had ulterior motives, would have to climb over the walls because the doorkeeper would not admit him, and, of course, the sheep would not recognize his call and would flee from him.⁵⁷[1]

- 57 For fuller details and documentation see Bailey, pp. 2–7.

John 10:7-18

Here the setting is the open country into which the shepherd led the sheep

for grazing, and where in the summer months shepherd and sheep might spend the night. Overnight the sheep were placed in roughly constructed round stone-walled enclosures. The top of the dry-stone wall was covered with thorns to keep out wild animals. Inside the enclosure the sheep were safe so long as the entrance was secured by the shepherd. He slept across the entrance as there was no door and no doorkeeper.[1]

- [1]Colin G. Kruse, *John: An Introduction and Commentary, vol. 4, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2003), 229-231.

Only with Jesus can you find abundant life (John 10:1-10)

- ++Salvation from sin is found only in Jesus as the door to abundant life
- ++All other options rob, steal, kill, and destroy

Only Jesus laid down His life to save you and keep you safe (John 10:11-16)

- ++All that is in the world does not care about you and will abandon you
- ++Jesus cared so much for you that He laid down His life to save you

Only Jesus was able to surrender Himself for you and raise from the dead (John 10:17-18)

- ++Jesus surrendered His own life, no one took it
- ++Jesus took back His own life, no one gave it

Hear Jesus' voice and join His flock

(John 10:16, 19)

- ++Those who don't hear Jesus' voice and follow Him are lost
- ++Those who hear Jesus' voice find safety and belonging

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