

Jesus Said It

I Am The Gate / Door

John 10:1-10

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. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper 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 the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

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. 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.

The Power of a Door

1. Every person has stood before a door—opportunity, danger, uncertainty.
2. Some doors lead to blessing; others lead to regret.
3. The question is never “*Is there a door?*” but “*Which door will you choose?*”

Transition to Text

1. Jesus presents Himself not just as a guide—but as *the Gate*.
2. In first-century Israel:
 - a. Sheepfolds were stone enclosures with one opening.
 - b. No physical gate—**the shepherd himself became the gate**, lying across the opening.
 - c. This meant:
 - Nothing entered without going through him.
 - Nothing exited without his awareness.

Big Idea

Jesus is the only legitimate way to God’s truth, relationship, protection, and abundant life.

I. Jesus is the gate to truth.

John 10:1-3

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. ² The one who enters by the gate is the

shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

A. Unpack

1. “Anyone who does not enter... by the gate... is a thief and a robber.”
2. “The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.”

B. Jesus contrasts **two types of people:**

1. The true shepherd (enters through the gate)
2. Thieves/robbers (climb in another way).

C. Cultural Insight:

1. Sheepfold had one authorized entrance.
2. Anyone bypassing it revealed **illegitimate intent**.

D. Jesus is confronting the Pharisees

1. Religious leaders claiming authority.
2. But leading people away from God.

E. Theological truth

1. Truth has a defined entry point – Jesus.

Psalm 118:19-21

¹⁹ Open for me the gates of the righteous;
I will enter and give thanks to the LORD.

²⁰ This is the gate of the LORD
through which the righteous may enter.

²¹ I will give you thanks, for you answered me;
you have become my salvation.

Matthew 7:13-14

¹³ “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. ¹⁴ But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

Illustration

- School pickup scenario
- Authorized entry vs. unauthorized access.
- Someone climbing through a window signals danger immediately.

- Not every spiritual voice is safe or legitimate.

Application

- Evaluate the voices influencing your life
- Social media
- Culture
- Spirituality or “Religious teaching”

Does this align with Jesus—the Gate?

Reject “shortcut spirituality” that bypasses Christ.

The Holy Spirit Helps us.

- Discernment through the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:10).
- The Spirit helps us recognize truth vs. deception.

II. Jesus is the gate to a relationship with God.

John 10:3-5

³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.”

A. Unpack

1. v.3 – “He calls his own sheep by name...”
2. “His sheep follow him because they know his voice.”

B. Jesus does not force – he leads with relationship.

1. Multiple flocks shared one sheepfold overnight.
2. In the morning, each shepherd called—and only his sheep responded.

Sheep follow **familiar voice**, not forced command.

The Gate is not just entry into safety—it is entry into relationship.

Isaiah 43:1

But now, this is what the LORD says—
 he who created you, Jacob,
 he who formed you, Israel:
 “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
 I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

John 10:27

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

Illustration

- Playground example:
- Many voices, lots of noise.
- child instantly recognizes their parent’s voice.
- Recognition comes from relationship.

Application

- Develop intimacy with Jesus:
- Daily prayer
- Time in the Word
- Worship

Learn to distinguish

- God’s voice vs. your emotions
- God’s voice vs. worldly influence

Good question

- *Am I following the Shepherd — or reacting to noise?*

Develop a relationship with the Holy Spirit

1. The role of the Holy Spirit:
2. John 16:13 – Spirit guides into all truth.
3. Become sensitive to...
 - a. Promptings
 - b. Convictions
 - c. Spiritual impressions

I. Jesus is the gate of security from the enemy.

John 10:7-8

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.

A. Unpack

1. Jesus moves from metaphor to declaration:
“I AM the gate.”
2. Shepherd physically laid across entrance at night
3. Served as.
 - a. Protector from predators
 - b. Barrier against thieves

B. This is a very harsh statement towards the Pharisees.

1. All those who have come before me are thieves and robbers.
2. The sheep have not listened to them.

C. Meaning of “saved”:

1. Rescue
2. Protection
3. Deliverance

D. Word Picture of a theological truth

1. Jesus is both the entrance.
2. And the defense.

Psalm 23:4

Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

Illustration

- Home security system
- Peace when protected
- Fear when exposed

Jesus is not a system—He is a living protector

Application

1. Stop relying on self-protection:
 - a. Control
 - b. Fear
 - b. Isolation
2. Trust Jesus as:
 - a. Savior
 - b. Protector
3. Rest in His covering:

When Jesus is the gate, you are secure.

4. Spiritual warfare reality

Ephesians 6:12

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

5. Jesus is our covering and authority.

Know this....

When you pray for protection and spiritual boldness you RECEIVE IT!

ACT ON IT NOW!

I. Jesus is the gate to a life of abundance

John 10:10

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

A. Unpack

1. Contrast between:
 - a. The thief's mission (destruction).
 - b. Jesus' mission (abundance)

3. Greek word ***perissos***:
 - a. Overflowing
 - b. Excessive
 - c. Beyond normal expectation

B. The Gate does not restrict life—it releases it.

Ephesians 3:20

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.

Galatians 5:22-23

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Isn't this what we all want in our lives?

Illustration

- Dry field vs. overflowing field:
- One survives.
- One flourishes.
- Jesus didn't come for survival—He came for flourishing.

Application

- Identify areas where you are living beneath God's promise:
- Joy
- Peace
- Purpose

Here is a lie

- Following Jesus is a restrictive lifestyle. What you need is a bigger world.
- Abundance is only for heaven."

Receive HIS fullness

- Surrender fully to Christ.
- Abundant life is Spirit-empowered life:

Acts 1:8 – Power through the Holy Spirit.

- Baptism in the Holy Spirit.
- Living in spiritual gifts
- Expect overflow