

Morning Sermon July 22, 2018

"The Door" John 10:1-11

I. *Jesus is the Door to more –*

Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. (John 10:7 NKJ)

"I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. (John 10:9 NKJ)

The reality of Jesus being the door, and door of the sheep, can be considered and studied from a few different angles:

1. *First, Jesus was and is the door of the sheep comparably to the ordinary realities of His first century Israel day –*

A. *There were two kinds of sheep enclosures in Jesus' day:*

(1) *Makeshift enclosures put together by individual shepherds*

(2) *A more substantial community enclosure manned by a doorkeeper, which Jesus is talking about here –*

"But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³"To him the doorkeeper opens, ... (John 10:2-3 NKJ)

• *These enclosures had high, substantial walls –*

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. (John 10:1 NKJ)

B. *The shepherds in Jesus' day had intimate relationships with their sheep –*

"... and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. (John 10:3 NKJ)

2. *Second, Jesus is the Door and Shepherd of the sheep in relation to the Biblical realities already taught in the Old Testament –*

A. *Note in Psalm 23 the LORD, Jesus provides -*

<A Psalm of David.> The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

(provision) ²He makes me to lie down in green pastures; (rest)

He leads me beside the still waters. (protection from dangerous temptations)

³He restores my soul; (spiritual restoration)

He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. (Moral leadership) ⁴Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of

death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. (protection from the greatest of enemies, even death)

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. (protection from all enemies, sheep are vulnerable) ⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever. (eternal life) (Psalm 23:1-6 NKJ)

B. *Jesus as the Door, as the Good Shepherd provides these wonderful benefits:*

"I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. (John 10:9 NKJ)

(salvation) (true spiritual freedom and provision)

Abundant life -

"... I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. (John 10:10 NKJ)

C. *Jeremiah 23 provides a contrast to Psalm 23 –*

"Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture!" says the LORD. ²Therefore thus says the LORD God of Israel against the shepherds who feed My people: "You have scattered My flock, driven them away, and not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for the evil of your doings," says the LORD. (Jeremiah 23:1-2 NKJ)

These are the people (in contrast to Himself) Jesus is speaking about in John 10:7-8 –

Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸"All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. (John 10:7-8 NKJ)

How were they thieves? They lied, flattered sinners, for their own profit – Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. They make you worthless; They speak a vision of their own heart, Not from the mouth of the LORD. ¹⁷They continually say to those who despise Me, 'The LORD has said, "You shall have peace"; And to everyone who walks according to the dictates of his own heart, they say, 'No evil shall come upon you.'" (Jeremiah 23:16-17 NKJ)

3. *Third, Jesus is the Door and Shepherd of the Sheep for this blind man (and others) in contrast to the Pharisees who cast them out –*

II. Doors to ignore –

1. Jewish leaders, Pharisees were going to cast people out of the synagogues if they called Jesus the Christ –

His parents said these *things* because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed *that He was Christ*, he would be put out of the synagogue. (John 9:22 NKJ)

- A. There were known threats that even influenced this man's parents!
- B. The threat is basically we will throw you out the door threat!

2. We are to ignore such things in the sense that we should not FEAR them ...

A. Doors to ignore, those who kill only the body
"And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do.

- B. Who and what not to ignore, God Who can cast you into Hell, and He (God) will lock that door -

⁵ "But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him!

3. Those who ignore these false doors and shepherds and embrace Christ, serve a God who knows the number of hairs of their on head -

⁶ "Are not five sparrows sold for two copper coins? And not one of them is forgotten before God. ⁷ "But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. (Luke 12:4-7 NKJ)

III. Entering through the Door to more ...

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. (John 10:1 NKJ)

What is Jesus a door to? In this passage the subject is the sheep and the sheepfold –

Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. (John 10:7 NKJ)

Here the question is what is Jesus the door to? Heaven? The Church? Israel? The Sheepfold in some other sense?

1. Jesus is surely the way of salvation –

"I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, ... (John 10:9 NKJ) See also - John 14:6, Acts 4:12

2. Jesus is the only way into the invisible church and the only right way into the visible church:

- A. Invisible church is the church of all true believers, Jesus knows all these sheep by name, they know Him –

"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. (John 10:27 NKJ)

- B. But in the visible church there are also get in another way –... he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. (John 10:1 NKJ)

- C. The tares get there by Satan's placement –

Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵ "but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. (Matthews 13:24-25 NKJ)

Tares- ζιζάνιον, ον n: a particularly undesirable weed resembling wheat and possessing a seed which is poisonous – J.P. Louw; Eugene Nida

For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. (2 Corinthians 11:13-14 NKJ)

Such were both in Israel and the church and still are ...

¹⁴ Your prophets have seen for you False and deceptive visions; They have not uncovered your iniquity, ... (Lamentations 2:14 NKJ)

3. Christ tells us about sin, though it made Him unpopular –

"You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. (John 8:44 NKJ)

- A. Get in The DOOR by confessing your sin – 1 John 1:9

- B. And by forsaking it – Romans 6:1-2; Ezekiel 33:11

"Say to them: `As I live,' says the Lord GOD, `I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?' (Ezekiel 33:11 NKJ)

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