

Message Notes

**“I AMthe Gate!”
“I AMthe Good Shepherd!”**

Whenever Jesus refers to himself as “_____” He is saying something extremely significant! John ‘s gospel flows with _____ of these “I AM’s” and are some of the most effective and useful verses in the Bible!

Exodus 3¹⁴ God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.^[c] This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

The Parable

John 10¹ “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.

The Explanation

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.^[a] 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.

¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.¹² The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it.¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

¹⁴ “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.¹⁶ I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.¹⁷ The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again.¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

Three Major Images in the Portrait

- The Good Guy—The _____ and The _____ - Jesus
- The Bad Guys—The Thief, D _____, Hired hand!
- The Vulnerable Ones—The Sheep — P _____ possession of the Good Guy and V _____ of the Bad Guys!

As Gate Jesus is the only entrance for good care givers and good provision for the sheep. He is the _____ point of all interactions between the sheep and the rest of life!

The bad guys come in by another way - they don’t come in by the _____ because they would be f _____ out! They are t _____, robbers and strangers to the l _____ and f _____ relationship of the sheep and their shepherd!

Sheep live either in f _____ or with t _____!

They are d _____ or l _____!

In fear they will

- jump
- crowd
- or go it alone!

In a trusting relationship they have

- L _____
- p _____
- L _____ to the full!