

Walking With Jesus, the Gate for the Sheep

Study Guide for Lesson Three—February 1, 2013

“I am the Gate for the Sheep”

Day One:

To fully understand our main text for this week, John 10:1-10, we need to examine the last few verses of chapter 9. Read through **John 9:39-41** and continue through **John 10:1-10**.

WHO is Jesus speaking to?

WHEN does this take place?

WHY is Jesus saying these words?

WHAT has Jesus accused his audience of?

Any time you see Jesus using the words “I tell you the truth” (**10:1**) you can know it is “*an expression of strong affirmation, denoting the certainty of importance of what He is about to say. It is a TRUTH of utmost concern to mankind.*” *Barnes’ Notes on the Bible*

We can also know the words that follow, **connect with what has preceded it**. Therefore, our text today is a continuation of what we learned about the healing of the man born blind, and the resulting attitudes of the religious leaders. The concept of the shepherd and the sheep pen was a common thing, and God himself was known as the Shepherd of Israel. We will focus on learning all we can about the Shepherd and the Sheep over the next couple of lessons, in order to better understand who He is, and what He wants to do in us and for us.

In general, **who are the “sheep”** Jesus is speaking of in these verses?

This may seem a silly thing to ask, but **what IS a gate or a door?** What is it’s purpose and function? List all you can think of.

What specifically have the Pharisees done, in our previous study, that Jesus would accuse them of being thieves and robbers?

The Pharisees claimed they were the ones who had *all knowledge* regarding spiritual things, yet they were spiritually blind and continuing in sin. In verses **10:1-6**, Jesus tells us some important things: List all you learn about the following from these verses:

Sheep

Watchman

Shepherd

Thief and Robber



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Day Two:

"I am the Gate for the Sheep"

Jesus has already spoken to the Jews about light and darkness, and about being blind and seeing. Now, He will contrast the shepherd and the false shepherd. Re-read **John 10:1-6** as we take a closer look.

In **John 10:3**, the watchman opens the gate for whom?

And as the shepherd speaks, who is listening?

It's interesting that the man born blind *heard the voice of Jesus*, and *followed the instruction of that voice*? It is sad that those who claimed to know the scriptures, could not recognize the fulfillment of them standing in their midst. **v3, "the sheep listen to his voice"**.

In your Bible, put a **distinctive marking** around any reference to the sheep listening, or not listening in **verses 1-10**.

Do you always hear the voice of Jesus? Is His voice familiar to you? How can you be sure you are hearing the voice of Jesus? **Write out your thoughts below.**

When we spend time in the Word, and in prayer, His voice becomes familiar to us. **Share a time** when you knew you were **hearing the prompting** of the Lord.

What **4 things** happen when the shepherd is allowed into the sheep pen? **List them.**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

In contrast, **what happens when a stranger approaches** the sheep?

Are you quick to **recognize spiritual danger** and flee? Have you ever **been seduced** by the voice of a "stranger"?



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Day Three:

"I am the Gate for the Sheep"

Read **John 10:7-10**

Once again, this section begins with words we should pay attention to! "I tell you the truth...*I am the Gate for the Sheep.*" Jesus was declaring that He had come in under the Law. He came the way the prophets foretold. Look up the following scriptures and give a brief summary of them below.

Genesis 3:15

Micah 5:2

Isaiah 7:14

Isaiah 11:1-2

Genesis 49:10

Isaiah 40:3-5

Galatians 4:4

Jesus is the gate that leads people out of their present fold. In this case, Judaism. Christ is the fulfillment of the New Covenant, the long awaited Messiah! He is Messiah, and He came "through the door and is the door", so to speak! He came the way the prophets foretold, in the appointed way! **Every true shepherd must be called of God and sent by God.** If the shepherd speaks God's Word, the sheep will "hear His voice" and not be afraid to follow the shepherd.

In **verse 8**, Jesus again uses the terms "thieves and robbers", what is the difference between them?

What does the word "thief" imply?

What does the word "robber" imply?

Has your faith ever fallen victim to deception & trickery, OR been destroyed in some manner by any sort of false shepherd?



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Day Four:

"I am the Gate for the Sheep"

Read **John 10:9-10** Jesus repeats His bold claim to the Jews in **verse 9**. **Write out this verse.**

When Jesus says, *I am the gate*, "whoever enters through me (the gate), will be saved". Jesus is telling us that *He is the gate or door of salvation*. There is no other way to eternal life, but through Him! What other scriptures can you find that support His claim?

What does being saved mean? How does it change your relationship to God, the Shepherd of Israel? Look up these scriptures and jot down what you have gained through a relationship with Jesus!

Ephesians 2:18

Colossians 2:13

John 1:12

Philippians 3:20

Ephesians 2:13-14

Romans 3:21-22

The one who enters through the gate (Jesus Christ) will **v.9 "come in and go out, and find pasture."** Those who go in and out will have liberty in Christ, and enjoy the rich pastures of the Lord! His sheep enjoy fullness, freedom and contentment!

v10 "The thief comes only to steal, kill and destroy; **I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.**" What comes to mind when you think of an "abundant life" by the world's standards?

Look up these verses: **1 Peter 1:3-7**

James 1:2

The abundance Jesus would give us is manifested in the **Fruit of the Spirit** described in **Gal 5:22-24**
List those nine attributes here:

The name of God in the present tense: *I am the Gate for the Sheep*

Write how THIS particular name of God affects YOU personally today. How does God Almighty want to related to you based on THIS name:

