

I Am the Door

John 10:1-21

Who do you listen to?

Who do you take advice from?

What are their credentials?

TV Star?

Famous people and their political views

Someone who's an expert in the field?

Not cool enough to listen to

Ecc 9:13-18 NKJV - This wisdom I have also seen under the sun, and it [seemed] great to me: [There was] a little city with few men in it; and a great king came against it, besieged it, and built great snares around it. Now there was found in it a poor wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city. Yet no one remembered that same poor man. Then I said: "Wisdom [is] better than strength. Nevertheless the poor man's wisdom [is] despised, And his words are not heard. Words of the wise, [spoken] quietly, [should be] heard Rather than the shout of a ruler of fools. Wisdom [is] better than weapons of war; But one sinner destroys much good."

Counselor, psychologist, doctor?

Advice can be worldly, fleshly, limited

Because they don't know you

Even a friend?

Pro 18:24 NKJV - A man [who has] friends must himself be friendly, But there is a friend [who] sticks closer than a brother.

Jer 1:5 NKJV - "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations."

Psa 139:13-18 NKJV - For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully [and] wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And [that] my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, [And] skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When [as yet there were] none of them. How precious also are Your

thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! [If] I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You.

There is One who truly knows you.

There is One who truly loves you.

There is One who truly calls you.

Do you know Him? Do you hear him? Would you recognize his voice?

John 10:1-6

Most assuredly...amen amen, truthfully, verily, firm, sincerely

This is a deep thing, an important truth Jesus is conveying.

There are two ways in to the sheepfold (to the church, to your life)

1 - over the wall

2 - through the door

Keys to the house, a lot of robberies happen because a window was left open

You can know who it is at your door by how they come in

Buzzers in apartments

Friends come in

Others show up (JW) - try to sneak in with "share a warm thought from the bible with you..."

The enemy knows the scripture

Just like a smart thief might know how security systems work

The shepherd comes in through the door

He has all the rights, he has all the access, he has nothing to hide, nothing to fear, can come in through the main gate. This is the way he enters.

People will use any means necessary to sneak into your life and control you

Any way to get you on the hook

To listen to them

2Ti 4:3-4 NKJV - For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, [because] they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn [their] ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

I googled itching ears...you know what came up...the explanation that it can be signs of the start of an infection...something wrong with your hearing

People's ears itch for something to hear...some new doctrine, some interesting teaching
They will itch and scratch for hours, as long as it keeps them going.
It doesn't have to be the truth.

Podcasts to no end! Audiobooks for days! Movies for three hours! But a Bible teaching over 45 minutes? Hold on!

Do we want the TRUTH or are we just trying to get rid of the itch in our ears?

Once, in Charles Spurgeon's church -- the Metropolitan Tabernacle in London, England -- somebody stole the clock that hung in the back of the sanctuary. They thoughtfully put a note where the clock had been, which read, "Since the pastor is more interested in eternity than time, he will not miss this clock. ... Forgive me as I put all my focus on my God."

- AW Tozer *My Daily Pursuit* 5/13

To Him, the doorkeeper opens...

There is a guy who guards the door of the sheep...this is truly the pastor's job
To make sure Jesus has full access to his sheep

But also, we're the doorkeepers of our hearts, it's us...our minds, our conscience

Rev 3:20 NKJV - "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

Why does he even knock? He should have full access...because God is a gentlemen. He will not force his way on us

He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out...

Shepherds at times, at night, would put all their sheep in the same place...for safety...safety in numbers, protect from robbers, etc...

The sheep know their master's voice

Like a dog!

**A parent also knows the cry of their children
I know the shepherd knows the cry of his sheep as well**

Psa 18:6 NKJV - In my distress I called upon the LORD, And cried out to my God; He heard my voice from His temple, And my cry came before Him, [even] to His ears.

Psa 116:1-2 NKJV - I love the LORD, because He has heard My voice [and] my supplications. Because He has inclined His ear to me, Therefore I will call [upon Him] as long as I live.

He goes before them

We all too often think that when God calls us or say “is leading us” to do something, that we have to be the one to forge ahead and do it...NOT SO
He always leads us from before us and guards us from behind

The sheep follow him. Are you following him?

Has he lead you out of anything?

I wonder, if we haven't been lead out of anything, taken through anything, followed him even if no one else was in a time or circumstance...are we really following him?

Disciples, followers, Christians...we have these labels...but do we know what they really mean?

Student

One who follows

Little Messiah

Could any of our lives be described by these things? Or do we just read the Bible and go to church (good things, but not the end of things)?

They will by no means follow a stranger...but will flee from him

What do you do when hear strange teaching?

When the Spirit is uncomfortable within you about someone who is “leading” the body?

Do you suck it down and keep going?

Do you just take everything everyone who claims to be a Christian says?

Or do you flee from them?

If they're not opening the door to Jesus in your lives...they didn't come in through the door.'

LISTEN to the Holy Spirit's discernment... in your heart

They did not understand this illustration...goats and sheep

:7-11

Most assuredly...truthfully...firmly...amen amen

He tells us again, specifically introducing himself

A police officer doesn't need to show you his badge, he just does his job until you don't listen to him...then he says hey, we're the police...

Someone pretending usually will flash a badge around

Stolen valor

Jesus tried to get them to see him, but when they didn't...he made it clear

False teachers will make you want to see them...it's all about them...

True teachers will try to get you to see for yourself

I am the door of the sheep...

We can enter salvation through him...

Broken body, blood, the veil torn, into heaven, God's presence

Psa 23:1-6 NKJV - A Psalm of David. The LORD [is] my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. Yea, 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. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.

V10: thieves have one mission: steal, kill and destroy

They say thieves who come in the day come for your stuff (you're probably not home)

Thieves who come in the night come for you (you're probably home)

Home invasions now - they come for both

A true shepherd lays his life down for the sheep

David, lion, bear, Goliath

Jesus at the cross

How do you know if this person is from God or not?

They lay their life down for you. They serve you. They love you.

Might not be your best friend, might not be around all the time...but when they are, when they can, and even if they can't, they show you that they love you.

Jhn 15:13 NKJV - "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

There is this mentality that being a pastor is a job. IT IS NOT A JOB. It is a calling, a gift, lived through a life.

I don't do this to make money...i don't make any! I don't expect to retire. But I know I can't do anything else, even though I want to at times, because when I look at my shepherd, when I hear his voice, this is all I can do in response...all i want is for you to hear his voice and follow him.

If this is the last time we spend time together, all i want to know is that you decided to follow the voice of your shepherd. Jesus. I don't care if you don't listen to me, come with me, hang out with me, I just want to know, more than anything, that you are listening to and following jesus...no matter where he leads you, no matter what other people think. If you love me, please do that alone. I hope, I pray that our time here together, was for you to follow Jesus...not to see us, but because you wanted to follow Jesus.

:12-21

A hireling...one hired

We're all hirelings at one point or another...there comes a point at work where you say that's enough

Maybe it's 5pm...maybe it's after working a little late, maybe it's after 10 years of the garbage you put up with day in and day out, you call it quits...because you're hired. It's not your business.

But the true shepherd? He never calls it quits...even if it means death.

The life of his sheep is more important than his own life.

Paul always wanting to reach the Jews, being stoned trying to preach the gospel, imprisoned...anything for his shepherd to reach the sheep.

Sees the wolf coming...doesn't even stay and fight

Remember David?

The wolf catches and scatters...**they run because they don't have a protector, others are being eaten**

A hireling does not care about a sheep

Pastoral jobs...not saying that they ALL don't care about the sheep, or if you were hired you don't care about them

But with the average tenure of a pastor being 2 years...i have to wonder.

We left Maryland because of the sheep in NY. Because our shepherd led us back to see how everything was up here. To begin a work to gather some of the sheep.

We've prayed about staying. But we know there is something that is helpful and something that is best. Would it be helpful to stay, yes, but we know that there is a better way. That we're not needed here...God is doing something! And we can help from a distance.

I am the Good Shepherd

Not just any shepherd, he is the good shepherd

Good

- beautiful, handsome, **excellent, eminent, choice, surpassing, precious, useful, suitable, commendable, admirable**
- beautiful to look at, shapely, magnificent
- **good, excellent in its nature and characteristics, and therefore well adapted to its ends**
- **genuine, approved**
- precious
- joined to names of men designated by their office, **competent, able, such as one ought to be**
- **praiseworthy, noble**
- beautiful by reason of purity of heart and life, and hence praiseworthy
- **morally good, noble**
- **honourable, conferring honour**
- affecting the mind agreeably, **comforting** and confirming

Other sheep, one flock, one voice

Going to get the Gentiles also

Grafted in, Romans 11

Jesus lays down his life, but he takes it back up again

Foretelling of his death and resurrection

The proof of his being the Good Shepherd. The one sent by God, God himself

No one takes it from me

Jesus wasn't compelled by anyone to do it. Forced. Taken prisoner.
He allowed it. He willed it. It was his father's desire.

When the world hears the voice of the Lord, there are two reactions:

- 1 - he is a demon, crazy, why do you listen to Him?**
- 2 - Can something evil do and say something so amazing?**

He opens the eyes of the blind...the Good shepherd

Jhn 9:24-25 NKJV - So they again called the man who was blind, and said to him, "Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner." He answered and said, "Whether He is a sinner [or not] I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see."

More than being physically able to see, the Good shepherd wants you to spiritually see.
To see danger. BUt more importantly, to see him.

**Do you see him this morning? Do you hear him at the gate? At the door? Calling?
Leading you out, and through, back and forth into good pasture? To find rest? Listen for
him today and always.**