

Life in a Gated Community

John 10:1-10

Life can be pretty uncertain and leave us feeling insecure. We try to unlock the doors of relationships, investments, medicine, and technology to find security. In John 10:1-10, we learn that *Jesus is the door that leads us to salvation, security, and super-abundant life.*

John 10:1-18 uses the picture of a shepherd and the sheep to describe the relationship of Christ and his people. It contains two “I am” statements—the door and the good shepherd. The door in 10:1-10 focuses on the security the shepherd provides, while the good shepherd in 10:11-18 focuses on the intimate relationship the shepherd has with the sheep and the sense of belonging we have as being part of his flock.

☐ The shepherd gathers his flock (1-6)

In contrast to those false shepherds who steal and abuse the sheep, Jesus is a caring shepherd who takes care of the sheep.

- **Watch out for false shepherds (1)**

This figure of speech comes after the Pharisees kicked the formerly blind man out of the temple (9:34). It also plays against the backdrop of God’s indictment against false shepherds in Ezekiel 34:1-10.

False Shepherds	Good Shepherds
Feed themselves	Feed the sheep
Neglect the weak, sick, injured, and strays	Strengthen the weak, heal the sick, bind up the injured, gather the strays
Sheep are scattered and preyed upon	Rescue the sheep

The sheepfold was a circular or square enclosure, often with a high stone fence.

False shepherds try to climb over the walls in order to steal the sheep. Thief implies subtlety and trickery; robber connotes violence and plundering.

- **The shepherd is known and trusted by the sheep (2-5)**

The shepherd enters through the opening or doorway. He is known by the gatekeeper.

The shepherd knows the sheep and the sheep know the shepherd.

Rather than drive the sheep, the shepherd leads the flock.

The sheep follow because they know the voice of the shepherd.

- **Jesus' listeners missed the point of the illustration (6)**

Jesus was using a figure of speech, but it was lost on his audience. They did not get the connection.

- **The shepherd leads his flock to safety (7-10)**

Jesus is the door through which we enter into salvation, security, and super-abundant life.

- **The door (7, 9)**

This is another of the 7 "I am" statements in the gospel of John. It provides further insight into who Jesus is.

Jesus is the door through which the sheep enter the safety of God's fold and go out to the rich pasture of his blessing.

- **Salvation (9a)**

Salvation refers to protection from the sheep's enemies, here understood to be false teachers, who keep people from a true knowledge of God.

- **Security (9b)**

The one who enters has the liberty to come in and go out. They find places of nourishment.

- **Super-abundant life (10)**

Jesus' disciples enjoy life to the fullest measure, not mere existence and/or survival.

- **Questions to ponder**

- How well do you know the Shepherd?
- Are you listening to his voice?
- Are you enjoying the safety, security, and abundant life he provides?