





The Door

John 10:1-18

Parables of Jesus

A parable is a story used to illustrate a moral or a lesson. Jesus often spoke in parables, and many times we are told that the people did not understand the parables.

Jesus opens the parable by saying that anyone who tries to get into the sheepfold without going through the door is a thief or a robber; the shepherds come in by the door.

A sheepfold was sometimes called a “sheep cote”, and was a place where sheep would come to spend the night. It was usually a permanent structure with walls made of stone, and would often be topped with branches or thorn bushes to keep out intruders. Several flocks of sheep would spend the night here, and a doorkeeper, or porter, would guard the door.

In the morning, the gatekeeper would open the door for the shepherds when they came to get their flock. The sheep would recognize the voice of their shepherd and they would follow him.

Often shepherds will meet together in a field during the day, bringing more than one flock together. The sheep recognize the voice of their shepherd, and each will follow their own shepherd when they lead their flock out.

The sheep will not follow a stranger, but will run away, because they do not know the voice of strangers.

Jesus was speaking this parable to the Pharisees, but they did not understand. Jesus begins to explain.

He tells them that He is the door of the sheep.

Everyone who came before him claiming to be the Messiah, or anyone claiming there is another way to God, is a thief and a robber. The ones who were the sheep - the believers - did not follow the thieves and robbers.

He says again, that He IS the door. If you come in through Jesus, you will be saved, you will go in and out, and you will find pasture.

This is interesting. This can be linked with the provision that is promised by our shepherd in Psalm 23. Because we came through Jesus, we will find pasture - He leads us into green pastures beside the waters, He leads us in paths of righteousness, and protects us as we go through danger.

He then talks about the thief.

Who is the thief? The thief would be Satan, the devil. Satan comes to steal, kill, and destroy. Jesus came to give us life, and not just life, but a full, satisfying life.

Jesus explains that He is the shepherd, and speaks of his crucifixion here in veiled terms as He tells them that a good shepherd gives his life for the sheep. A hired hand does not own the sheep. If he sees a wolf coming, he will leave the sheep and run away, and then the wolf will attack the sheep. The hired hand runs away because he is hired, and does not really care about the sheep.

Jesus is the good shepherd. He knows his sheep - He knows YOU! And His sheep know him.

Jesus tells us that he knows the Father, and the Father knows Him; and that He gave His life to save us.

He also has other sheep that are in a different fold; he was speaking about the Gentiles. Up until this point, Jesus was ministering to the Jews, but after His resurrection, all believers would be Christians, without a difference between Jews and Gentiles.

The Father loves Jesus because he sacrificially gave His life so that He may take it again. Jesus goes on to say that no one forced Him to make this sacrifice.

He decided to lay down His life, and the power to take it back again; it was a voluntary decision that Jesus made.

Jesus in the Story



There are a lot of truths in this parable.

In John 10:2, it could also mean that pastors and leaders could also be shepherds of the sheep. Leaders who entered through Jesus, would be shepherds of the sheep. If a leader does not lead you to Jesus, Jesus called them thieves and robbers, and they do not lead to the truth. We must check every one who teaches, and make sure they always lead to Jesus.

He is the ONLY way.

John 10:3-4 says He calls His own sheep by name.

He knows YOU personally! He LEADS you. He goes before you, and you follow Him because you know His voice.

Jesus' sheep DO HEAR his voice.

Sometimes people do not think they are hearing Jesus. He is always speaking to us, but we have to be quiet and listen. We have to turn our ear and listen to Him. Imagine you are somewhere where there is a lot of loud noise, and your friend is talking to you. You lean towards them, you try to listen very hard to hear what they are saying. This is how we should listen to Jesus; His voice is the most important thing you can hear.

John 10:10 tells us that the thief is the one that steals, kills, and destroys.

Sometimes people blame God for doing bad things and causing hardships in our life. But Jesus is clear; those things are from the devil. Satan wants to take from us and wants to destroy us. Jesus came to save us and to give us life to the fullest! The word here for life in the original Greek is "ZOE" life, and it means the absolute fullness of life, real, genuine, active, vigorous, and blessed!

There are many religions who claim that they have the way to God, but only those who teach that Jesus is the only way have the truth.

There is only one way to God, and that is through his son, Jesus Christ. He is the door, and the ONLY WAY to the Father.

Lesson Questions & Memory Verses

33. The Door

1. Who comes in the door?
2. Who do the sheep follow?
3. Will the sheep follow a stranger? Why or why not?
4. What does it say we will recognize if we know Jesus?

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

34. Who Is My Neighbor?

Read Matthew 25:35-40

1. Jesus said, I was hungry and you gave me?
2. I was thirsty and you gave me?
3. I was a stranger and?
4. I was sick and you?
5. I was in prison and you?
6. When we help others, who are doing it for?

Matthew 22:37-39

...You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

35. The Wicked Servant

1. How many times did Jesus say we need to forgive? Explain.
2. What did the master give to the man who owed a very large amount of money?
3. What did that man do when his worker owed him a little bit of money?
4. What does God say he will do if we do not forgive others?

Mark 11:26

But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.

36. The Lost Sheep

1. How many sheep did the shepherd leave behind?
2. Where did he leave the other sheep?
3. Where did he take the one lost sheep after he found it?
4. What did Jesus say happens in heaven when someone repents?

Isaiah 53:6

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.



