

(1) “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hears his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.”

(6) This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what He was saying to them.

(7) So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the Door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the Door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

(11) “I am the Good Shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

(14) “I am the Good Shepherd. I know My own and My own know me, just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to My voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

(17) “For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of My own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from My Father.”

(19) There was again a division among the Jews because of these words. Many of them said, “He has a demon, and is insane; why listen to Him?” Others said, “These are not the words of one who is oppressed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”

Think on these things:

- 1) Let’s start with the big picture. First Jesus calls Himself the “door” (or the gate), and then He calls Himself the Good Shepherd. Both titles are in the context of working with sheep. Let’s flesh out these terms: a) Who are the ‘sheep?’ b) What does Jesus as the door or gate imply? (see John 14:6 and Hebrews 10:12-14, 19-22); and c) How does Jesus act as our shepherd?

The sheep? **Jesus’ sheep are people who believe (put their faith) in Him.**

The door? **Jesus opens the way to direct “access” to God the Father. He is the ONLY way.**

Our shepherd? **Jesus leads, guides, protects, and provides for His sheep (believers).**

- 2) Jesus said He goes before and leads His sheep. The sheep follow Him because they know His voice. How do you recognize Jesus’ voice among the many voices sounding off in our culture?

Personal opinion/sharing question. Hopefully it includes two key concepts: 1) focusing on God’s Word; and 2) daily, regular prayer times. All claims --- religious, political, or otherwise --- must be filtered against Biblical truth. Regular prayer keeps one attuned to hear God’s voice and understand His leading & directions. There are many viewpoints out there to distract...!

- 3) If you begin a “sheep’s life” by entering God’s Kingdom through Jesus, the Gate, what does Jesus promise you (see Psalm 23 and John 14:1-3)? What is the alternative if your choice is to reject Him as the Gate?

Promises (v.9)? **V.9 says we will be saved! Ps.23 speaks of comforting leadership in paths of righteousness, goodness and mercy that culminate in living in the Lord’s house forever. Jn. 14 says Jesus is preparing a room for each of us and that He will come again to take us with Him.**

Alternative? **The implication is that we will NOT be saved. There is no other door/gate to God!**

- 4) Jesus says here that He lays down His life for the sheep. Consider the prophecy in Isaiah 53:1-12. Jesus was executed as a state criminal by Roman crucifixion. If Jesus is God, the Son, how was any man able to do this to Him (see John 10:17-18 and 18:33-38).

John 10 – **Jesus said that the Father loves Him for “laying down His life.” Jesus willingly gave up His life to fulfill the Father’s plan. He also said, “No one takes it from Me.” It was a choice.**

John 18 – **Jesus told Pilate that yes, He was a King --- but that His Kingdom was not from this world. His purpose in coming into this world was to bear witness to the TRUTH. If He was an earthly King, His followers would have fought for His deliverance from the Romans (Pilate).**

- 5) Jesus says in v.16 that He has “other” sheep. Who are the original sheep (vs.1-6), and who are the other sheep (Romans 10:8-13; 11:11-12, 25)? What does He plan to do with the two “flocks” (Romans 10:12; Ephesians 2:11-16; and Colossians 3:11)?

Original sheep?	The Jews.	Other sheep?	The Gentiles.
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Plans? (v.16) – **In v.16, Jesus says His plan is to unite the two flocks into one, with one Shepherd. Jew or Gentile (Greek), if you call upon the Name of the Lord, you will be saved (Rom.). Jesus broke down the “dividing wall of hostility” to create in Himself “one new man in place of the two” (Eph.). Social distinctions are eliminated; it’s all about faith in Christ (Col.).**

- 6) How did the crowd around Jesus respond at this time (vs. 19-22)?

Their views were divided. The greater part (many) said, “He’s insane! He has a demon.” But the minority (others) said that His words and healings were not that of a demon-oppressed (possessed) man.

People and situations I want to pray for this week: