

I Am the Gate for the Sheep

I Am

John 10:1-10

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- * What did you hear?
- * What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- * What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

KEY VERSES

10 *Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷ So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*

REFLECTION

Last week, we kicked off our I Am series in John 8, in which Jesus declares He is the light of the world. Our decision we make is guided by Jesus, who is our light in the darkness. This week, in John chapter 10, we look at Jesus as “the gate.” Jesus is speaking to the Pharisees who had the most issue with who Jesus claimed to be. The Pharisees called him a “messianic pretender,” which was common during that time. Today, we don’t necessarily follow messianic leaders, but we are prone to allow things to enter the sheepfold that come to us by way that is not Jesus: performance, status, busyness, and idolatry. **What are the thieves and robbers who are prone to invade your life from time to time?**

Jesus declares in this passage that He is the gate of the sheepfold. It was customary for shepherds to lie across the gate, protecting the sheep from outside intruders and from their escape. As his sheep, Jesus also protects our hearts and souls from things that attack us from the outside. He offers us peace, as he did to his disciples in the midst of the storm. **How is Jesus currently trying to offer you peace?**

Through Jesus as our gate, we are invited to come and go from the sheepfold and find green pastures. As the bringer of peace, Jesus instructs us how to live in these three ways. **Discuss each and the implications for yourself:**

- 1) We can be confident that we can trust the church, though fear and discomfort might be a part of it.
- 2) We experience protection and peace only by abiding with Jesus.
- 3) We are promised abundant life in Jesus, not a life in which we are told NOT what to do.