

### REVIEW

**Last week - this week's passage is within last week's metaphor, Good Shepherd.**

Old Testament Leaders Shepherds, failed (Ezk 34)

- Scattered sheep, not fed, not protected, but taken advantage of.

So God judged these Shepherds.

- "I am against the shepherds." (Ezk 34:10)
- "Woe! ... I will attend to you for your evil deeds." (Jer 23:1-2)

God himself steps in and takes care of his people where the evil shepherds failed.

- "I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep." (Ezk 34:15)
- Promised to gather, heal, feed, protect, and lead them.

God also promised a future leader in the line of David who would shepherd the sheep.

- "I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David." (Ezk 34:23)
- God also alluded to the sacrificial death of this shepherd Messiah
  - "Awake, O sword, against my shepherd...Strike the shepherd." (Zech 13:7)
  - "We all like sheep have gone astray, Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all." (Is 53:6)

Then, In the fullness of time, Jesus comes on the scene and says,

- "I am the Good Shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." (John 10:11).
- By his death on the cross we are saved. This is substitutionary atonement.
- He took our penalty, the propitiation, satisfying God's wrath because of sin.

**The Good Shepherd became the sacrifice so that the sheep may be saved!**

So we saw Four Aspects of Jesus, the Good Shepherd in John 10, look at John 10:27-28,

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them (**knows/relationship**), and they follow me (**leads**). I give them eternal life, and they will never perish (**saves**), and no one will snatch them out of my hand (**protects**)."

**The rest of the New Testament picks upon this theme of Jesus as the Shepherd.**

**Acts 20:28**

“Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.”

- They follow the Good Shepherd, called to lead, protect, and provide for the flock of God.
- Jesus bought the church, the flock with his blood, sacrifice – church is special, leaders: care well!

**Jeremiah 3:15** – is where the promise of good shepherd-leaders comes from.

“ ‘And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.’ ”

- Church leaders are under shepherds after God’s heart.

**1 Peter 2:25**

“For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.”

- We stray like sheep, but Jesus, the Great Shepherd, has called us and we have returned to him as sheep to a shepherd who hear his voice.
- He is the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls.
- He’s Relational, lead/guide/protect our eternal souls – our inner lives, our spiritual lives, the eternal destiny of our souls, gives us eternal life.

**Hebrews 13:20–21**

<sup>20</sup> “Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, <sup>21</sup> equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.”

- Jesus is the Great Shepherd of us, the sheep. Who has shed his blood.
- He “equips” us to do his will, what is “pleasing in his sight.”
- He is dedicated to our growth and sanctification, to him be glory!

**New Creation - Revelation 7:16–17**

“ <sup>16</sup> They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. <sup>17</sup> For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

- In the end, we will be saved in eternal glory, experience the guidance and care of the Lamb, who is our shepherd!
- Through eternity, this is an image/metaphor through entire Bible.

- **Isaiah 40:11** – “God tends his flock like a shepherd, he gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart.” – for eternity!

Remember, we’re sheep! We are needy. We stray, we are attacked, we get anxious and scared, and we need direction!!

- Jesus **knows** us when we stray.
  - In love he calls us back, pursues us when we wonder.
- Jesus **protects** us when we face spiritual attack.
  - Gives us Spirit, spiritual armor.
- Jesus **provides** for us when we get scared and anxious.
  - Ultimately with eternal life.
- Jesus **leads** us when we need direction.
  - Given his Word, provides wisdom when we need direction.

So our **BIG IDEA** from **last week**,

Jesus, as the Good Shepherd, knows us, protects us, leads us, and saves us by his sacrifice.

**And so, for this week, in keeping with this shepherding metaphor, Jesus says,**

**“I am the door of the sheep.” (John 10:7)**

What is a “door” in ancient shepherding?

- The sheepfold had one entrance/exit of the sheepfold. That is the door for the sheep.

...So we’re the sheep, Jesus is the door for... us!

- It is an image about his blessings for us, his sheep.
- What our identity is as sheep trusting in him, our Door.

Then, what does it mean that Jesus is our Door?

- It means **FOUR** things, benefits for us.

“I am the door of the sheep; if anyone enters by Me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture...I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” (9-10).

**As we trust Jesus the Door for the sheep we are, (we listen & follow),**

1. **Saved.** We “will be saved.”

2. **Secure.** We “will go in and out.”
3. **Sustained.** We will “find pasture.”
4. **Satisfied.** We will “have life abundantly.”

#### **Old Testament Background of each of these four benefits**

1. **SAVED.** We “will be saved (eternal life).” (John 10:9a, 10) “have life”
  - Our problem of sin, separation from God’s presence goes all the way back to the garden.
  - After sinning, Adam and Eve were sent out of the Garden of Eden.
  - Cherubim guarded the way, so no one could enter the door to paradise.
  - Flaming sword at entrance. The message: Door is closed!

But notice **Psalms 118:19-24**, (Messianic Psalm)

“<sup>19</sup> Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD. <sup>20</sup> **This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.** <sup>21</sup> I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. <sup>22</sup> The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. <sup>23</sup> This is the LORD’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. <sup>24</sup> This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”

- Gates/door of righteousness – only righteous enter through it.
- “You” have answered me, “my” salvation.
- In Christ we have this righteousness, this salvation to enter the gates/door to salvation.

#### **Door in NT, entrance to kingdom (salvation for eternal life)**

##### **Matthew 7:7**

<sup>7</sup> “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

##### **Matthew 7:13–14**

<sup>13</sup> “Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. <sup>14</sup> For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.”

##### **John 14:6**

“I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me.”

### **Acts 14:27**

“And when they arrived and gathered the church together, they declared all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.

**Point** – Jesus, as the door, gives us entry into eternal salvation—he provides the only way to eternal life through faith.

### **2. SECURE.** We “will go in and out.” (John 10:9b)

#### **Deut 28:1-6,**

“And if you faithfully obey the voice of the LORD your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. <sup>2</sup> And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the LORD your God. <sup>3</sup> **Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field.** <sup>4</sup> Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. <sup>5</sup> Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. <sup>6</sup> **Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.**”

- **Going in and out – covenant terminology,** of great blessing, security wherever you go, coming in, going out you will be blessed and secure

#### **Shepherd leadership in OT has the image of,**

- Taking sheep in and out, leading people in safety and security.
- Leadership that is leading, guiding, and protecting – they are safe with this leader.

#### **Numbers 27:15–18** - New leader after Moses, Joshua.

<sup>15</sup> Moses spoke to the LORD, saying, <sup>16</sup> “Let the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, appoint a man over the congregation <sup>17</sup> **who shall go out before them and come in before them, who shall lead them out and bring them in,** that the congregation of the LORD may not be as sheep that have no shepherd.” <sup>18</sup> So the LORD said to Moses, “Take Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him.”

#### **Psalm 121:8**

“The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.”

- Or “Secure, protect” – all of your ins and outs, travels and time at home, eternally!

**Point** – Jesus, as the Door, gives us protection - he provides safety from dangers so that we can have peace.

### **3. SUSTAINED.** We will “find pasture.” (John 10:9b)

#### **Find Pasture – image of assurance of God’s provision**

##### **Psalm 100:3**

“Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.”

##### **Psalm 23:2**

“The Lord is my Shepherd... He makes me lie down in green pastures.”

##### **Ezekiel 34:11–15,**

“<sup>12</sup> For thus says the Lord: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out.

As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness.<sup>13</sup> And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country.<sup>14</sup> I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel.<sup>15</sup> I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord God.”

- Rescued, searched, gathered, bring them to own land.
- Image of their own land is a good, rich pasture for sheep.
- He will provide abundance in their land.

**Point** - Jesus gives us all that we need – we are spiritually fed on his Word. He provides for our daily needs and much more.

### **4. SATISFIED.** We will “have life abundantly.” (John 10:10b)

- **Satisfied now, and in the future.**

#### **A picture of this in the OT,**

##### **Psalm 16:5–11**

“<sup>5</sup> The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. <sup>6</sup> The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance. <sup>7</sup> I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. <sup>8</sup> I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. <sup>9</sup> Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. <sup>10</sup> For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption. <sup>11</sup> You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”

- Isn't this a great OT picture of being abundantly satisfied in God?

**Jesus says he came that they may have “life abundantly.”**

**This means abundant life now,  
“Life”**

- Being “healthy, happy, having energy and vitality” (LEX)
- It is the “result of faith in Christ, we have possession of life even in this world.” (BDAG)
- A life of abiding, a life of peace with God, a life of holiness and grace in Christ.

**Life “Abundantly”**

- “Marked by great quantity” (LEX), “being extraordinary in amount, beyond what is necessary” (BDAG)
- Blessed with life to the full now as we walk with Jesus, our door and shepherd.

But the phrase has an already-but-not-yet sense. We are also waiting for eternal abundance.

- So in addition, it means the abundant life **for all eternity**.

**This eternal resting place of abundant life is foretold in the OT**

**Zechariah 9:16–17**

“<sup>16</sup> On that day the LORD their God will save them, as the flock of his people; for like the jewels of a crown they shall shine on his land. <sup>17</sup> For how great is his goodness, and how great his beauty! Grain shall make the young men flourish, and new wine the young women.”

**Isaiah 60:11**

“Your gates shall be open continually; day and night they shall not be shut, that people may bring to you the wealth of the nations, with their kings led in procession.”

- Gates not longer shut! Versus barred entrance to the garden in Genesis 3.
- Great prosperity! Blessings to the nations, worship of the nations.

### **Revelation 21:22–26 – the New Jerusalem, the gates are open!**

“And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.<sup>23</sup> And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.<sup>24</sup> By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it,<sup>25</sup> and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there.<sup>26</sup> They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations.”

- The glory of Jesus, the Lamb, is there.
- Gates never shut by day or night.
- Jesus is the door for the sheep, the gate is open because of his work on the cross and his work as a conquering king bringing total peace.

**Point** – Jesus, as the Door, gives an abundant relationship with him – he satisfies our deepest needs now and will satisfy us with future abundance in heaven.

### **Jesus, the Door for the sheep, is our salvation, security, sustenance, and satisfaction.**

- Jesus gives us entry into eternal salvation - he provides the only way to eternal life.
- Jesus gives us protection - he provides safety from dangers so we might have peace.
- Jesus gives us all that we need - we are spiritually fed on his Word. He provides for our daily needs and much more.
- Jesus gives an abundant relationship with him – he satisfies our deepest needs now and will satisfy us with future abundance in heaven.

### **PRAYER TIME**

In light of what we have talked about with Jesus being the Good Shepherd and Door, read Psalm 23 and pray these themes about your life right now.

- Jesus, the Good Shepherd, knows us, protects us, leads us, and saves us by his sacrifice.
- Jesus, the Door for the sheep, is our salvation, security, sustenance, and satisfaction.

### **QUESTIONS**

1. What are the thieves in your life, the dangers that you need Jesus' protection from?
2. How can you feed on the good pasture of the Word of God this week? What is your plan to do this?
3. What has Jesus provided for you in abundance that you can thank him for?
4. What can you do to work on being more satisfied in Jesus? What robs you of being fully satisfied in him?
5. What are you looking forward to in eternity, in the abundance of the new heavens and new earth – the new city of God with doors open wide?