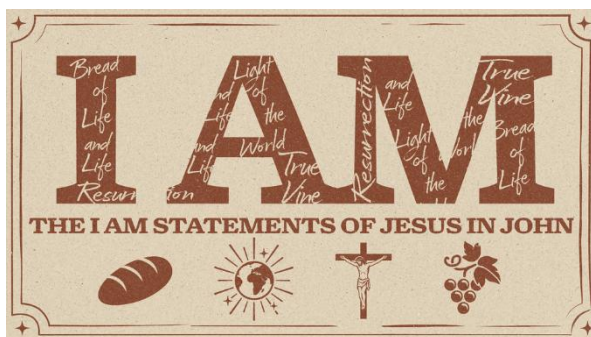




Door & Shepherd

Week 3 – I Am's – 9/27/2026

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

"I am the Good Shepherd.

The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

John 10:11

- Jesus, as the Good Shepherd, knows us, protects us, leads us, and saves us by his sacrifice.
- So when we stray, he knows us and what we need to get back on the path. When we face danger and spiritual attack, he protects us. When we get scared and anxious, he provides for us. And when we need direction, he guides us.

John 10:11, "I am the Good Shepherd."

"Good" shepherd.

- "Good" (*kalos*) one who has positive qualities (LEX) qualities of goodness and beauty (Morris)
 - "good" suggests nobility or worth, the "noble" shepherd, the "worthy" shepherd (Carson).
- Jesus is the **true** shepherd, verses the false leaders.
 - So, Jesus is the true, noble, worthy shepherd.
- This is in strong contrast to the unworthy, bad shepherd - the "hired hand." Hired hands were in it for themselves, not attached to the sheep, don't "care," "flees" when wolves came (12-13).
- Jesus is also real and genuine shepherd, who fulfills the OT prophecies, contrasting himself with the false, bad shepherd leaders of Israel.
 - So the True and the Real and the Genuine Shepherd Messiah is here!

Four Aspects of Jesus as the Good Shepherd from John 10

1. He **Knows** (4, 14-16).

- The sheep know the voice of the shepherd.
- Jesus knows the sheep, just as the Father knows him (intimately, perfectly in love, this is a close relationship!)
- Other sheep, they know his voice, one flock and one shepherd (desires a relationship and thus gathers them from all nations)!

2. He **Leads** (3-4).

- Calls by name (relationship), they listen and follow, and he leads them out to pasture.
- “He goes before them” great leading phrase! (they follow and know).

3. He **Protects** (12-13).

- He is always with them, protecting them from danger.
 - Thief/robber, stranger, wolf.
- Contrast to the hired hand, who flees at danger, because “he cares nothing”
- Jesus protects because he cares for the sheep.
- In protecting, he provides for them in safety, Jesus provides life, life abundantly (10).

4. He **Saves** (11, 15, 17-18).

- This is the emphasis of the passage and the difference between human shepherds and Jesus, as the Good Shepherd. He saves... by sacrifice!
 - Saves 3x, Sacrifice 4x.
- Intentional Sacrifice, “I lay it down.” Sacrificial language!
- Lays down life “FOR” the sheep (11). Little word, big meaning.
 - On their behalf! Speaks to this sacrifice.
 - This construction is used in John - always used in a sacrificial context. Uses this construction about the death of Jesus (6:51), death of Peter “I’ll lay down my life for you!” (13:37), of a man prepared to die to save a friend (15:13).
 - And 2x, “Take it up again” has the power of resurrection!
 - All of this is the “charge of the Father” (end of verse 18)... to lay down, to take up – it is his will and comes by his giving the Son authority.
- He loves the sheep, cares for them – so much, he is willing to die to save them!

By his death they are saved! This was anticipated in OT.

Zechariah 13:7–9

⁷ “Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, against the man who stands next to me,” declares the Lord of hosts. “Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.”

- Was quoted when disciples fled after Jesus’ arrest, anticipates the death of Messiah, calls him the “shepherd.”

Isaiah 53:6

“We all like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way, and the Lord has laid on him (Jesus) the iniquity of us all.”

- **Saved by Sacrifice!**
- This is a substitutionary atonement, he took our sins and was sacrificed as he shed his blood... then raised.
- I am the good shepherd gets at the very core of the gospel!

Old Testament Background – Shepherd

Two leaders in the OT that point to Jesus as the Shepherd

1. **Moses** (Ps 77:20 and Is 63:11-14)

- God led flock by Moses. Through Moses’ shepherd-leadership, God did great things – parted the waters by Moses’ arm, led, presence, rest...to make a glorious name!

2. **David** (Ps 78:72 and 1 Sam 17:34-37)

- God chose David, a shepherd to shepherd the nation.
 - As a shepherd he risked his life, protected the sheep (1 Sam 17)
- He was a shepherd to his people.
 - With an upright heart he shepherded them.
 - Guided them with his skillful hand.
- David’s shepherd-leadership as king, anticipates greater David, a king in his line!

Ezekiel 37:24

²⁴ “My servant David shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd. They shall walk in my rules and be careful to obey my statutes.

- And David wrote the beautiful words of **Psalms 23**

Shepherding in the New Testament and in the New Creation

1. Jesus shepherds and oversees our souls.

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.
 - Relational, lead/guide/protect our eternal souls, gives us eternal life, no snatch.
 - He eternally shepherds our souls by giving eternal life!

2. Jesus provides shepherd-leaders for his flock

Jeremiah 3:15

“ ‘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, promised leaders and given to the church.

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, care well!

3. Jesus equips the sheep to do his will, pleasing him as they grow

Hebrews 13:20–21

²⁰ “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,
²¹ 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 pleasing will.
- He is dedicated to our growth and sanctification, to him be glory!

4. Jesus shepherds his people forever in the New Creation

New Creation - Revelation 7:16–17

¹⁶ They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. ¹⁷ 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.”

- Healed! Guide/provide!
- 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 a main image/metaphor!
- **Isaiah 40:11** – “God tends his flock like a shepherd, he gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart.”

Summary: Look at John 10:27-30 – Knows, Leads, Protects, Saves.

BIG IDEA

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

Applications

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

- Jesus knows us when we stray.
- Jesus protects us when we face danger and spiritual attack.
- Jesus provides for us when we get scared and anxious.
- Jesus leads us when we need direction.

So, when we stray, when we get scared and anxious, when we face danger and attack, when we need direction – Jesus protects, provides, and guides.

Applications Questions

1. Our applications for today are,
 - Jesus knows us when we stray.
 - Jesus protects us when we face danger and spiritual attack.

- Jesus provides for us when we get scared and anxious.
- Jesus leads us when we need direction.

Are you going through any of these struggles? How can you seek Jesus, the Good Shepherd, as he relates to your struggle?

Growth Project

Read Jeremiah 23:1-6; Ezekiel 34:1-16; Ezekiel 34:17-31; Micah 5:2-5 (Ps 23 if needed)

- What are the human shepherds like and what does God think about it?
- What do we learn about God's character and what does he do to help?
- What do we learn about Jesus? How does this passage anticipate the Good Shepherd?

THE DOOR OF THE SHEEP

*"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."*

John 10:9

- Jesus, the Door for the sheep, is our salvation, security, sustenance, and satisfaction. He provides the only way to eternal life.
- So when we are in danger, he gives us protection and peace. He sustains us spiritually through his Word and provides for our needs. And when our hearts wander, he satisfies our deepest longings now and promises to satisfy us with future abundance in heaven.

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. Sometimes called the gate.

...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.

Focusing on 9-10...“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.”

- **As we trust Jesus the Door for the sheep** (we listen & follow), four blessings!

Old Testament Background: Four Blessings

- connection to Jesus and their connection to Jesus as the Door

1. **We are 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. Door to God’s full presence is closed!!

But notice **Psalms 118:19-24**, (Messianic Psalm) – talking of Jesus.

“¹⁹ Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord. ²⁰ **This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.** ²¹ I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. ²² The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. ²³ This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. ²⁴ 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, become my salvation.
- Talking of Jesus is that salvation – he is the gate and the stone the builders rejected, the cornerstone.
- 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

⁷ “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 – two gates, ender narrow for salvation

¹³ “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. ¹⁴ For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.”

Point #1 – Jesus, as the door, gives us entry into eternal salvation—he provides the only way to eternal life through faith.

2. We are Secure. We, “will go in and out.” (John 10:9b)

Deut 28:1-6 - (Blessings for obedience, curses for disobedience)

“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. ² And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the Lord your God. ³ **Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field.** ⁴ 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. ⁵ Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. ⁶ **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.
- So part of God's commitment to be with his people is that he will be with them wherever they go!

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

¹⁵ Moses spoke to the Lord, saying, ¹⁶ “Let the Lord, the God of the spirits of all flesh, appoint a man over the congregation ¹⁷ **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.” ¹⁸ 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."

- Secure with Joshua – they conquered everywhere he went! Provided that security of a shepherd-leader.

Psalm 121:8

"The Lord will keep your **going out and your coming in** from this time forth and forevermore."

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

Point #2 – Jesus, as the Door, gives us protection - he provides safety from dangers so that we can have peace.

3. We are **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 – after speaking against all the faults of the bad shepherds, God steps in,

- Great passage describing the idea of pasture!

"¹² 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. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord God."

- Rescued, searched for, gathered, bring them to own land.

- Image of their own land is a good, rich pasture for sheep.
- God as the Good Shepherd (vs bad ones) will provide abundance in their land.

Point #3 - Jesus gives us all that we need – we are spiritually fed on his Word. He provides for our daily needs and much more.

4. We are Satisfied. We will, “have life abundantly.” (John 10:10b)

- Satisfied now, and in the future.

A picture of this in the OT,

Psalms 16:5–11

“⁵ The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. ⁶ The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance. ⁷ I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. ⁸ I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. ⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. ¹⁰ For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption. ¹¹ 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?
- Satisfied in God's presence with us, is enough, brings joy and pleasure! (11)

Jesus says he came that they may have “life abundantly.” (John 10:10b)

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)
- So we are 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

“¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ For how great is his goodness, and how great his beauty! Grain shall make the young men flourish, and new wine the young women.”

- “That day” (at the end), the Davidic shepherd judges wicked, saves people.
- Picture of salvation in abundance, people are his flock.
- Shine, great goodness of God. He will show his great beauty.
- There will be abundance of provisions.

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.”

- Image of the city of God, and the abundance of the nations bringing blessings in.
- Notice that the gates to God’s city and presence are **no 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. ²³ 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. ²⁴ By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, ²⁵ and its **gates will never be shut** by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶ 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, he’s the **gate that is open** because of his work on the cross and his work as a conquering king bringing total peace.

Point #4 – 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.

Review: Four benefits of this metaphor

1. **Saved.** We “will be saved.”
 - Eternal life, saved from condemnation.
2. **Secure.** We “will go in and out.”
 - Freedom of movement as we are protected, not scare, secure in him.
3. **Sustained.** We will “find pasture.”
 - Find provisions, food. God’s Word is our spiritual food.
4. **Satisfied.** We will “have life abundantly.”

BIG IDEA

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 **security** and safety from dangers so we might have peace.
- Jesus gives us all that we need, **sustenance** - 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.

Application 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 robs you of being fully satisfied in Christ? What can you do to work on being more satisfied in Jesus?
4. 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?

Growth Project

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.