

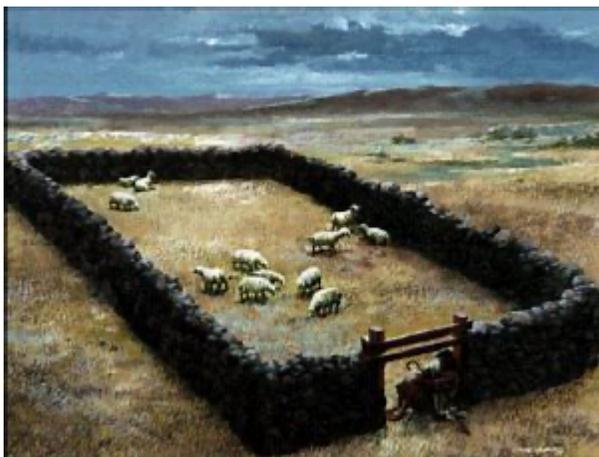


The Gate for the Sheep

John 10:1-10 (NLT2) ¹ "I tell you the truth, anyone who sneaks over the wall of a sheepfold, rather than going through the gate, must surely be a thief and a robber! ² But the one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep recognize his voice and come to him. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ After he has gathered his own flock, he walks ahead of them, and they follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ They won't follow a stranger; they will run from him because they don't know his voice." ⁶ Those who heard Jesus use this illustration didn't understand what he meant, ⁷ so he explained it to them: "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me were thieves and robbers. But the true sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ Yes, I am the gate. Those who come in through me will be saved. They will come and go freely and will find good pastures. ¹⁰ The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

The Seven I am Statements of Jesus in John's Gospel

1. I am the Bread of Life (John 6:35)
2. I am the Light of the World (John 8:12, 9:5)
3. I am the Gate for the Sheep (John 10:7)
4. I am the Good Shepherd (John 10:11)
5. I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6)
6. I am the True Vine (John 15:1-5)
7. I am the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25)



1. Jesus is speaking against the Pharisees who show no compassion for the blind man's problem or joy over his healing.
2. Jesus uses this instance to reveal the actions and motivation of false shepherds.
3. Jesus declares exclusivity as the gate for the sheep.
4. Jesus takes responsibility to protect the sheep and prevent the thief from harming the sheep.

1. The gate is established in trusting relationships

1. The gospel invitation is inclusive. Mt 7:24; 12:50; Mk 8:34 John 3:15, 16 Acts 2:21 Rom 10:13; 1 John 5:1; Isa 55; Matt 11:28

2. The gospel response is exclusive. Always a call for action.
3. Look at the phrases in the text that speak of the intimate relationship between Jesus and His sheep.
4. Trusting in Jesus for salvation is necessary to have eternal life.

2. The gate reveals false shepherds

1. Jesus is speaking of the false religious leaders of His day.
2. They are easily identified by their selfishness.
3. They are easily identified by lack of concern for others.
4. They are always looking to improve their position in their group.

3. The gate brings freedom

1. Sheep need freedom in 4 areas to be able to rest.
 - a. freedom from fear
 - b. freedom from tension
 - c. freedom from aggravation
 - d. freedom from hunger
2. The devil, the world and your self will make it difficult to find the peace, grace, and strength you need. You need to listen to the voice of Jesus daily and fight for peace.

4. The gate brings blessings

1. Jesus promises salvation to all who come in through him.
2. Jesus will provide good pastures.
3. Jesus give abundant and eternal life. One without the other would be miserable.

**Jesus the gate for the sheep says to His sheep,
“I’ve got you. You are safe with me.”**