

Jesus Is God

I Am The Door, part 3

INTRODUCTION:

In today's message, we return to the series "Jesus Is God." Once again, Jesus' identification is in question and as you will see in the Biblical text, there is an element of security or safety Jesus speaks to.

I invite you to turn in your Bibles to John chapter 10 as we hear the words of Jesus declare: "I Am The Door."

{read John 10:7-10}

For us to fully understand why Jesus said what He said in John 10:7-10, we must understand that it springs from the events recorded in the previous chapter. Let me quickly summarize those events of John chapter 9.

- Jesus encounters a man who was blind from birth.
- The disciples believe his blindness is due to either the man's sins or that of his parents.
- Jesus corrects their misunderstanding by telling them his blindness had nothing to do about anyone's sin—but so that God's power could be demonstrated through it.
- Jesus declares Himself to be God by the words, "I Am The Light Of The World."
- Jesus then, makes a handful of clay, anoints the eyes of the blind man and tells him to wash it away in a pool of water.
- The man goes and receives his sight. This causes quite a stir in the neighborhood, so much so that they bring the man to the Pharisees. It is at this point that the Bible lets us in on an important point, Jesus healed this man on the Sabbath (a day, by Jewish law, where men were not to work).
- The Pharisees were far more concerned about the idea of the breaking of Sabbath law than the fact a man who had never seen before, now could see.
- After interrogating the man and his parents about who was responsible for this act of healing, the man told them it was Jesus. Because the man wouldn't denounce Jesus for healing him, the Pharisees kicked the man out of the Jewish synagogue. Now, this is an important point of the story because as the Jewish religious leaders, it was their job to care, to shepherd God's flock—the Jewish people.
- Jesus, hearing the man was thrown out of the synagogue, finds him again and reveals who

He truly is. The man believes and worships Jesus. Some of the Pharisees hear Jesus talking with the man and engage Jesus in conversation.

It is through all these events that Jesus now talks to the religious leaders, the Pharisees, about shepherding God's flock. And, as we now enter the tenth chapter of John, that Jesus begins His teaching. Our focus today brings us down to verses 7 through 10.

#1 - The Claim, John 10:7 & 9

Once again, Jesus says, "I Am."

As you might remember from last week's message, The Jews were told by God through Moses in Exodus 3:13-15, that God's eternal name as their Creator and Sovereign God is, in the Hebrew, YHWH, which means "I Am Who I Am" or, "I Am The One Who Is." That same name of God gets rendered in the ancient Greek language, which the New Testament is written, as "Ego Eimi." The meaning is the same. Jesus was claiming to be God.

#2 - The Illustration: Jesus Is The Door, John 10:7 & 9

For sheep to be secure, they must be protected from outside threats. You and I have doors with locks on them to keep us safe inside. Imagine how safe you would feel if your home had doorways, without actual doors!

In His illustration, Jesus says not once, but twice in this short passage that He is the door.

The first time He makes the claim, Jesus says something that distinguishes Him from others - it is about their *motives*. Jesus is referring to those leaders of the nation who cared not for the spiritual good of the people but only for themselves. Remember the context of Jesus' teaching. The religious leaders had just kicked out of the synagogue the man whom Jesus had healed. They were more concerned about the infraction, as they saw it of their law being compromised than that a man who had been blind his entire life now had his sight. Jesus is focused on the sheep's welfare, not an object of exploitation.

The second time that Jesus claims to be God and draws upon the illustration of being the door to the sheepfold, it focuses on Him being the only means to enter His fold/His flock.

Jesus declares that entrance into His flock can only happen if you enter through Him. And, if you do, you will be saved.

"Saved." It's a wonderful, Biblical term referring to being saved from the penalty of your sins. Elsewhere in the Bible we learn that we are all sinners. And because we have sinned against a righteous God, there is a penalty for our sin. That penalty is spiritual death and eternal separation from God in a place God refers to as Hell. Every man, woman and child who has ever been born is destined there because of their sin. But Jesus tells us in this passage that we can be saved from that by entering His flock through Him.

If we call upon His name, as the Son of God and acknowledge and repent of our sins, God saves us.

And once we become a part of Jesus' flock, we are not only saved spiritually for eternity, but we receive the benefits of His care in this life. Jesus goes back to that comparison of Himself and the robbers and thieves of the flock. Their intention is to steal, kill and destroy. Jesus' intention is to first bring life to His sheep, but also to give them life to the full.

Bible teacher, Warren Wiersbe puts it this way:

When you go through "the Door," you receive life and you are saved. As you go "in and out," you enjoy abundant life in the rich pastures of the Lord. His sheep enjoy fullness and freedom. [Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). The Bible exposition commentary (Vol. 1, p. 330). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.]

CONCLUSION:

Once again, I pause to ask you: Who do think Jesus is? Have you already accepted Him as God and asked Him to be your Savior? If so, we must remember that it is through Him we find the fullness and freedom in life.

For those here, who have not accepted Jesus as God and have not made Him your personal Savior, the consequence of your not doing so in this life condemns you for eternity. Are you now ready to place your faith in Him today? I pray that you are. Let's pray....