



I AM THE GATE FOR THE SHEEP | July 15, 2018

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Jesus is THE GATE, the one who provides safety and freedom in our lives.

John 10.1-10

*"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[a] 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.[b] 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."*

- Sheepfolds in Israel were different than the ones we see here in Canada, circular in form, they typically did not actually have a gate, rather the shepherd would seat himself in the gap of the wall and be a physical, human gate providing safety and freedom for the sheep. They were safe inside the sheepfold, but also knew the voice of the shepherd outside of it.
- Jesus' teaching in John 10 is a critique of the spiritual leadership of the Jewish people, another fulfillment of Ezekiel 34, where the spiritual leaders were more concerned with themselves than who they were leading.
- The chapter previous, John 9, is the recording of Jesus healing the blind man, a present example for Jesus' listeners of how Jesus is the gate (providing safety and freedom) as opposed to the current spiritual leaders of the time who were more concerned about rules than people.
- Each of us experience times of fear, panic, disillusionment. Jesus says that He is The Gate, the only one who will provide safety and freedom in the midst of challenging circumstances.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you experienced times in your life of chaos, fear, or no easy solutions?
2. When have you experienced Jesus as "The Gate" in your life? Who/what/where is your spiritual leadership coming from?
3. Do you know the voice of Jesus in your life? When, how, where does he speak to you?