

Jesus' "I Am" Sayings in John's Gospel

I Am the Door of the Sheep

Sunday, March 27, 2011

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Message Truth:

The third instance of the "I Am" saying (special word construction of the Greek "to be" verb combined with an emphatic personal pronoun) used by John, to reassure his reader of Christ's divinity, is the assertion that Jesus is the "Door of the Sheepfold." When Jesus says "I Am" the Door of the Sheep, He is warning us of the dangers we face in this world. We face robbers and false shepherds. The only safe place where sheep like us can find fulfillment and freedom is the sheepfold.

Message Text:

¹ "I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ² The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. ³ The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice." ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech, but they did not understand what he was telling them. ⁷ Therefore Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. John 10:1-10

Sheep are incredibly stupid animals.
Our Lord compares us to sheep!

A. The D_____ We Face!

1. We n_____ p_____ in this world.

¹ "I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. . . ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. John 10:1,10

● From S_____

⁸ Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. **Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.** 1 Peter 5:8

¹⁶ At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them. ¹⁷ But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. **And I was delivered from the lion's mouth.** ¹⁸ The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen. 2 Timothy 4:16-18

● From False S_____

² "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: **Woe to the shepherds of Israel who only take care of themselves! Should not shepherds take care of the flock?** ³ **You eat the curds, clothe yourselves with the wool and slaughter the choice animals, but you do not take care of the**

flock. ⁴ You have not strengthened the weak or healed the sick or bound up the injured. You have not brought back the strays or searched for the lost. You have ruled them harshly and brutally. Ezekiel 34:2-4

B. The S _____ We Can H _____!

2. We can be s _____ in this insecure world.

² The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. ³ The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice." John 10:2-5

3. S _____ is found within the s _____.

⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech, but they did not understand what he was telling them. ⁷ Therefore Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. John 10:6-8

4. There is only o _____ gate to the sheepfold.

⁹ I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. John 10:9

**Jesus not only gave His life for us,
but He gives His life to us right now!**

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.

**The Christian life is full of the joy of the Lord
and power of the Holy Spirit.**

Reasons Jesus Came Down to the Earth:

- **Not to condemn the world but to save the world.**

¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. John 3:17

- **To bear witness to the truth so that we could be saved.**

³³ "You have sent to John and he has testified to the truth. ³⁴ Not that I accept human testimony; but I mention it that you may be saved. John 5:33-34

- **To give us full and meaningful lives.**

⁹ I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. John 10:9-10

- **To die so we could live.**

²⁷ "Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. John 12:27

- **Are you protected from the enemy in the sheepfold of our Lord?**
- **Have you entered through the Door of the Sheep or have you tried to enter by some other way?**