**There is Only One Door**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**John 10:1-16**

**Sunday Morning**

**March 30, 2025**

**John 10:1-16**

1 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. 2 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

4 And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. 5 Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." 6 Jesus used this illustration, but they did not understand the things which He spoke to them.

7 Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. 9 I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. 11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

12 But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. 13 The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own.

15 As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. 16 And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.

I Am the Door

John 10:7-9

7 Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. 9 I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

Truth About God

Jesus is the Good Shepherd who will always lead us through the right doors!

Truth For My Life

I will recognize Jesus’ voice and follow wherever He leads me!

**The Sheepgate**

Saints, when the sheep were in a location where they could be brought to pasture and water daily, after a day feeding in the fields and drinking by the riverbanks, they returned to the safety of the sheepfold.

Sheepfolds came in all shapes and sizes, mostly dependent on the needs of the shepherd.

Many ancient sheepfolds consisted of stone walls, and almost all had a single entrance.

**Photo Sheepgate >**

The single gate made it more difficult for thieves and predators to enter the pen and wreak havoc or steal away sheep.

While a four- to five-foot stone wall may not seem like much of a defense, it proved to be a considerable deterrent.

Even if a thief were to sneak over the fence, the villain still had to heft a two-hundred pound adult sheep over the brick wall.

**John 8:37-45**

37 "I know that you are Abraham's descendants, but you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you. 38 I speak what I have seen with My Father, and you do what you have seen with your father."

39 They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham. 40 But now you seek to kill Me, a Man who has told you the truth which I heard from God. Abraham did not do this.

41 You do the deeds of your father." Then they said to Him, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father--God." 42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me.

43 Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. 44 You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

**Recognizing and Following the Right Voice**

**John 10:22-30**

22 Now it was the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem, and it was winter. 23 And Jesus walked in the temple, in Solomon's porch. 24 Then the Jews surrounded Him and said to Him, "How long do You keep us in doubt? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly."

25 Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me. 26 But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you. 27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. 30 I and My Father are one."

Saints, voice recognition played a key role in the work of the ancient shepherd. Living among the sheep as much as possible was of the utmost importance for the sheep to learn their shepherd’s voice.

Their safety depended on their familiarity with it. The shepherd’s voice could lead them safely to babbling water brooks to drink and to verdant pastures to feed.

The shepherd’s voice could also steer the sheep away from nooks and caves where snakes and predators loved to hide, waiting for an unsuspected stray to wander away from the safety of the flock.

A sheep who did not know how to recognize and follow the shepherd’s voice was far more likely to get lost, captured, or eaten by wild animals.

**Voices of Strangers and Robbers**

Sheep who know their shepherd’s voice will never be fooled by a substitute. Jesus was confident of this fact when He stated:

**John 10:4-5**

4 And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. 5 Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers."

Moreover, He emphasized,

**John 10:8**

All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them.

Robbers have no good intentions. While strangers might, robbers and strangers have one important element in common: they are not the true shepherd.

Regardless of the person’s origin or motivations, sheep are rightfully wary of any voice that does not sound exactly like their trusted shepherd!

**Jesus is The Door**

**John 10:1-5**

1 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. 2 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

4 And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. 5 Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers."

Saints, all these analogies by Jesus served to demonstrate one all-important point: He is the only path to safety, security, sustenance, and salvation.

This truth is why Jesus noted very plainly,

**John 10:9**

I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

Saints, Jesus noted in another place,

**John 14:6**

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Saints, if we desire to seek God and all His blessings, the only door is through Jesus Christ.

Indeed, several other writers of Scripture noted Jesus’ uniqueness as the only correct path for salvation. When speaking of Jesus’ name, Peter boldly proclaimed,

**Acts 4:12**

“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved”

Paul told Timothy:

**1 Timothy 2:5**

“For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus….”

Saints, this reality is why Jesus compared Himself to a sheepfold with only one entrance; there is no other way except through Him.

**Why would someone try to seek another door than Jesus Christ?**

**How can we demonstrate to others that Jesus is the only door to salvation?**

Saints, despite the Scriptures being quite clear on this matter, people still try other doors to happiness and fulfillment.

All the while, Jesus is waiting nearby, still the only door to salvation.

Thankfully, we have another promise of Scripture that Jesus Christ is

**Hebrews 13:8**

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

His door is still open for us, just as it was two millennia ago.

**Recognizing Jesus’ Voice**

Saints, o become familiar with the voice of Jesus, we must be willing to spend enough time with Him so we will never be fooled.

There are several ways we learn to recognize God’s voice.

**1. The first and best way is to read and meditate on God’s Word. The Bible is His story.**

**2. Complaining about not hearing God’s voice without reading His Word is foolishness.**

As one preacher quipped,

**“The hardest part of following God for most people is not discovering what His secret, hidden will is; the hardest part is obeying what’s written in black and white.”**

Saints, the Scriptures are filled with examples of saints crying out to God and God answering them.

How can we expect to hear God’s voice if we do not speak with Him, and how will we recognize His voice if we do not allow Him to speak?

Saints, God has placed spiritual leaders in our lives to lead and guide us in recognizing His voice for ourselves.

God has appointed spiritual men and women for this purpose:

**Ephesians 4:11-15**

11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

Saints, these leaders, especially pastors, are also described in the Bible as shepherds who take care of God’s flock. (See Acts 20:28; I Peter 5:2–4.)

**Acts 20:28**

Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

**1 Peter 5:2-4**

2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; 3 nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; 4 and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

Saints, how has God used these methods to help you recognize His voice daily speaking in your life?

**Following Where Jesus Leads**

Saints, recognizing God’s voice is only one part of the equation.

The next all-important step is to follow His voice where He leads.

For some, this final step might be obvious, but perhaps it is so obvious that many do not think of it.

Unlike sheep who follow the shepherd’s voice by instinct, we must daily choose to follow in the paths God is leading us.

What a great shame it would be for us to recognize God’s voice and yet continually fail to follow Him.

What a tragedy it would be to be led by His voice to the Door—Jesus Christ Himself—and perish in our sins on the doorstep.

**John 12:25-26**

25 He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26 If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.

**Mark 8:34**

When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Short Movie Slide>**

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.”**