



Christ: The Door of the Sheep

“Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep” (John 10:7)

Simon Dewey

John 10:7-10

- *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*

Purpose of the Discourse

- Give peace and comfort
- Expose false shepherds and false sheep
 - *Thieves and robbers*
 - *Have no love for the sheep*
 - *Do not care for the sheep*
 - *Harm the sheep*
 - *Did not enter the sheepfold through the gate.*
 - *They climbed in some other way*



False Shepherds

- Religious leaders: Scribes, Pharisees, ...
 - *“All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers”*
 - *A thief is subtle; a robber is dangerous;*
 - *both are criminals; both are lost.*
 - *They themselves did not enter the sheepfold through the door*
 - *They did not teach the people to enter the kingdom only through Christ.*
 - *They did not believe that Christ is the door*



The scribes and Pharisees by Alexandre Bida

False Shepherds

- Religious leaders: Scribes, Pharisees, ...
 - *They looked for other ways to enter*
 - *self-righteousness, human merit, rites...*
 - *“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.*
(Matt 23:23)



Christ is THE Door

- There is only ONE door, one way
- We can not climb some other way into the church:
 - *Works of the law*
 - *Free will*
 - *Tradition*
 - *Politics, socialism*
- Jesus Christ is the only way of salvation,
 - *the only way into the kingdom of God,*
 - *the only way to the Father.*

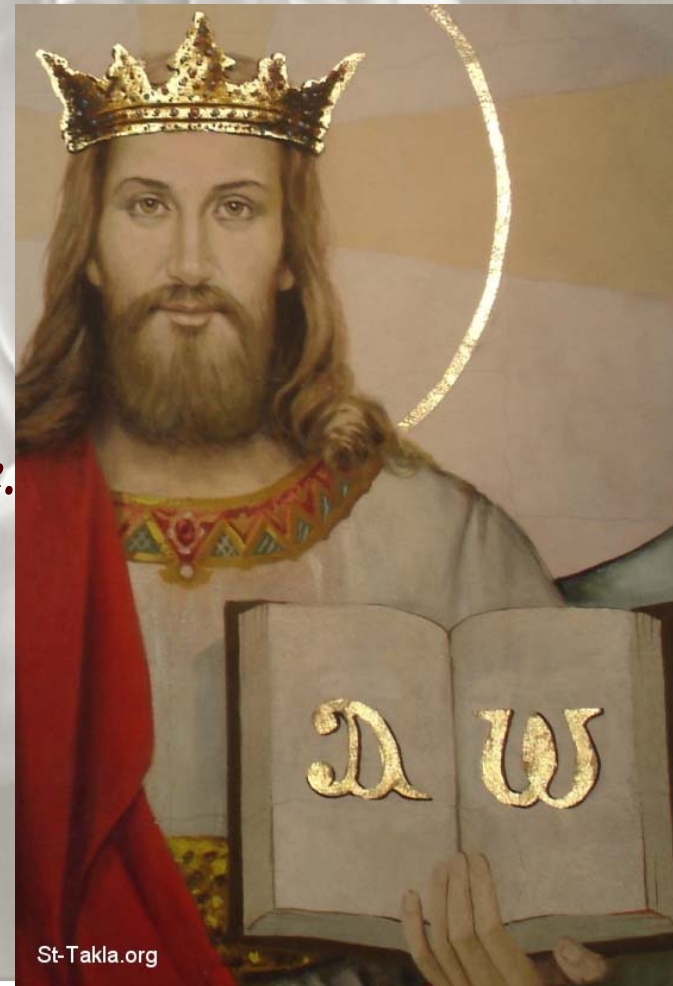


Jesus Christ is the ONLY door.

- He is an exclusive door.
 - *No room for negotiation*
 - *No one, could stand in the presence of the Father unless they came through the Son.*
 - *No well-meaning Mormon, follower of Buddha or Allah will ever see God!*
 - *Regardless of: humility, religiousness, zealousness, goodness...*
 - *High Priest, Low Priest, or No Priest*
 - *Deacon, deaconess, pastor, bishop, cardinal...*
 - *"Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you...' " (Matt. 7:22,23).*

Jesus Christ is the ONLY door.

- He isn't the one who points *to the door*;
He is the Door.
 - *You either come through Him, or you don't come at all.*
 - *Not to Him; through Him.*
 - *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (Jn 14:6)*



Jesus Christ is the ONLY door.

- *“For if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins” (Jn. 8:24).*
- *“He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. (Jn 3:18)*
- *“He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him” (Jn 3 :36)*
- *“He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.” (1Jn 5:12)*

No Room For Negotiation

- *John 6:53 Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. ⁵⁵ For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. ⁵⁶ He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.*
- *⁶⁰ Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, “This is a hard saying; who can understand it?”*
- *⁶⁶ From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. ⁶⁷ Then Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you also want to go away?”*
- *⁶⁸ But Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”*

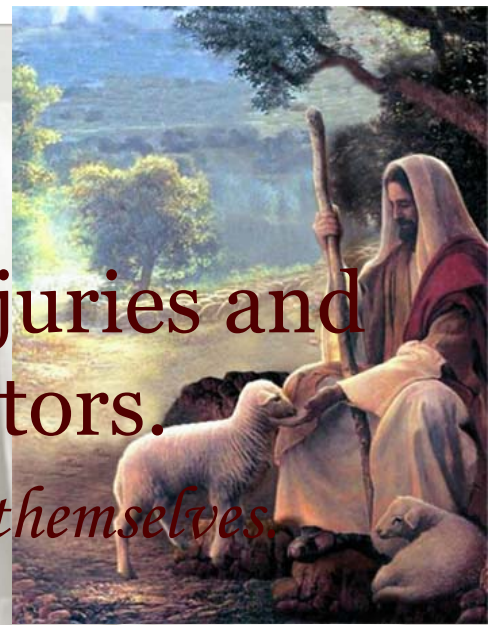
Who are the Sheep?

- Sheep are the most helpless of all the domesticated animals.
 - *They spend their entire day grazing wandering from place to place never looking up.*
 - *They often become lost.*
 - *They have no “homing instinct”.*
 - *They are totally incapable of finding their way to their sheepfold even when it is in plain sight.*
 - *By nature, sheep are followers. If the lead sheep steps off a cliff, the others will follow.*



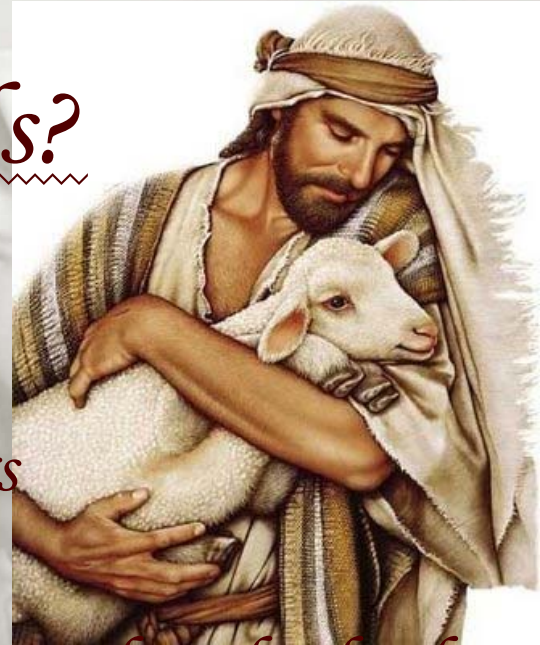
Who are the Sheep?

- Sheep are easily susceptible to injuries and are utterly helpless against predators.
 - *If a wolf enters the pen, they won't defend themselves.*
 - *They won't try to run away or spread out.*
 - *Instead they huddle together and are easily slaughtered.*
 - *If sheep fall into moving water, they will drown.*
 - *Sheep do fear moving water and will not drink from any stream or lake unless the water is perfectly still.*
 - *23rd Psalm tells us of the shepherd who: "makes [us] to lie down in green pastures, he leads [us] besides the still waters . . . though [we] walk through the valley . . . [we] will fear no evil. For He [the Shepherd] is with [us]."*



Who are the Shepherds?

- Sheep are totally dependent upon the shepherd.
 - *Shepherds are the providers, guides, protectors and constant companions of sheep.*
 - *So close is the bond between shepherd and sheep that shepherds can divide flocks that have mingled simply by calling their sheep, who know and follow their shepherd's voice.*
 - *Shepherds are inseparable from their flocks.*
 - *The shepherd lead the sheep to safe places to graze and make them lie down for several hours in a shady place.*
 - *As night fell, the shepherd would the sheep to the protection of a sheepfold.*



What is the Door of the Sheep?

- There were 2 kinds of sheepfolds or pens.
- One kind was a public sheepfold found in the cities and villages.
 - *It would be large enough to hold several flocks of sheep. This sheep pen would be in the care of a porter or doorkeeper, whose duty it was to guard the door to the sheep pen during the night and to admit the shepherds in the morning.*
 - *The shepherds would call their sheep, each of whom knew his own shepherd's voice, and would lead them out to pasture.*

Public Sheepfolds



What is the Door of the Sheep?

- The second kind of sheep pen was in the countryside, where the shepherds would keep their flocks in good weather.
 - *This type of sheep pen was nothing more than a rough circle of rocks piled into a wall with a small open space, a gate or door.*
 - *Through it the shepherd would drive the sheep at nightfall. Since there was no gate to close—just an opening—the shepherd would keep the sheep in and wild animals out by lying across the opening.*
 - *He would sleep there, in this case literally becoming the door to the sheep.*

Countryside Sheepfolds



Christ is the Door

- No one else can be our entrance
 - *“Neither an angel nor an archangel nor a patriarch nor a prophet did You entrust with our salvation.” (Liturgy of St. Gregory)*
- Only GOD
 - *You became for us a Mediator with the Father And the middle wall of division, You have broken down; And the old enmity you have abolished*
 - *You reconciled the earthly with the heavenly and made the two into one, and You completed the dispensation in the flesh. (Liturgy of St. Gregory)*

Christ is the Door

- A door leads both in and out
 - *The gate was opened at night to let the sheep into the fold. There they could find rest and peace and safety, they were secure.*
 - *In the morning the shepherds would open the gates and let the sheep out for pasture, for feeding.*
 - *Christ opens to bring His people into the fold of the church where there is peace and safety and security.*
 - *But He also opens that door to feed us; not on the outside of the church, but in the church and through the church.*

Our Responsibility

- *I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*
 - *We must enter this door*
 - *We must believe in Christ*
 - *We must consciously find and appropriate salvation and food and life.*
 - *We must consciously go in and out to find pasture.*
 - *Entering in by the door of the sheepfold is serious business*
 - *it is a matter of salvation*
 - *a matter of eternal life or eternal death*