

Experiencing Life More Abundantly

John 10: 9-10

Intro: "Two men were called on, in a large gathering, to recite the Twenty-third Psalm. One was a renowned orator trained in speech technique and drama. He recited the psalm in a powerful way. When he finished, the audience cheered, requesting an encore that they might hear him speak once again. "Then the other man, who was much older, repeated the same words--'The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want...' But when he finished, not a sound came from the listeners. Instead, they sat in a deep mood of devotion and prayer.

Then the first man, the great orator, stood to his feet. "I have a confession to make," he said, "the difference between what you have just heard from my old friend and what you heard from me is this: I know the Psalm, my friend knows the Shepherd."

Often in the Bible we are referred to as sheep. Sheep are ignorant and needful animals. They cannot survive without the watchful care of a shepherd. I fear that many sheep today may know the Psalm, but few actually know the Shepherd. In Him is life more abundantly. I want to consider this wonderful discourse that our Lord gave as we discover the precious truths revealed concerning: [Experiencing Life More Abundantly](#).

I. The Door (9) – **I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.**

A. The Assurance of the Door – Jesus declares that He is the door. He is not a door, or one of many doors; He is **the** door. He is the only means of entrance into abundant life and forgiveness of sin. If man desires to be saved and live eternally, he must come through the Door that is Jesus.

- **Jn.14:6** – **Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.** **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.**

- We need to understand what Jesus was speaking of here. He was painting a mental picture that all who heard would comprehend. He is not speaking of a door like the ones we are familiar with. In that day, sheep were kept in an enclosure of stone or branches formed into a wall. An opening was left for an entrance, but there was no literal door hung on hinges. The shepherd became the door of the sheep-fold as he laid in the narrow passage way. He was literally their door, their defense, and stay.

B. The Access to the Door – Jesus also reveals the means of access to the Door. It was not limited to a select or elite few. It was available to whosoever desired to enter: "**If any man enter in.**" He had not come to save only the wealthy or well known. He had not come just for the

powerful and educated. He came to save any that would enter in. **Jn.3:16 – For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.** Rom.10:13 – **For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.** 1 Tim.2:4 – **Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.** I rejoice to be a “whosoever!” I am glad that He came to me one day, placing a desire in my heart to enter the Door!

C. The Accommodations through the Door – Jesus reveals that passing through the Door affords one untold benefits and blessings.

1. Salvation – **I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.** Jesus alone is the source of our salvation. All who come to Him **shall be saved.** He doesn't reveal a chance of salvation, but a certainty of salvation. **Jn.6:37 – All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.**

- Keep in mind that a door serves two purposes. It allows one to enter in and it also serves as a barrier between the dwelling and the outside. Jesus is that Door! He provided the means for my salvation, allowing me to enter in, and He now stands as the door, keeping and guarding my soul.

2. Security – We also have the glorious privilege of **going in and out.** Now, don't misunderstand the text. Jesus is not referring to multiple salvation experiences. He is not saying that we can travel back and forth between salvation and condemnation. The saved are eternally secure in Him.

- This is referring to the liberty and assurance that we have in Christ our Lord. We no longer have to fear death or the storms of this life. We have confidence that we are going to make it through the power of Christ. **2 Tim. 1:12 – For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.** **1 Pet.1:5 – Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.** Aren't you glad for the assurance we have in Christ? Mine is not a “hope so” or “maybe so” salvation.” I am part of a sure thing! I am safe and secure in Christ my Lord!

3. Satisfaction – Jesus also promised that those who come through the Door will find **pasture.** This is a concept that many in Jesus' day were familiar with. The shepherd led the sheep to abundant pastures. It has the idea of “*plenty, not wanting or lacking the necessities of life.*”

- It is good to be led of the Great Shepherd to His pastures green. I have never found Him to be lacking in His care for me and I have never wanted while feasting upon His

abundant supply. The world has nothing to compare with the pastures of the Lord. I have nothing to look back or turn back to. I have left the dusty plains of this world for the bountiful pasture of the Lord. Aren't you glad we can lie down in green pastures?

I. The Door (9)

II. The Danger (10a) – **The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy:** Jesus warns of the danger present outside the fold. The thief wanders about seeking to steal, kill, and destroy. Notice:

A. His Approach – To really appreciate the danger involved we need to fully grasp the nature of the thief. The word literally means “*an embezzler or pilferer; it was also used to describe one who abused the confidence and trust of others for their own gain.*” Clearly it describes one who is cunning and deceitful, seeking his good at the expense of others.

- That is a clear representation of the adversary. He is present in the world among us. He seeks to pilfer the blessings and abundance of God in our lives. He does so by much trickery and deception. **Gen.3:1 – Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? 3:4 – And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:** he will never show you the end result of sin. He is a master of deception with a desire to defeat as many as he can.

B. His Agenda – Jesus warns that the agenda of the enemy is clear. **He seeks to steal, kill, and destroy.** He wants nothing more than to hinder our walk with God. He wants to steal our joy. He cannot touch our soul, and he even has to get permission from God to attack us, but he desires to kill us spiritually. He wants to render us ineffective in our spiritual journey. He wants to destroy our lives and our testimony.

- You may feel as if it could never happen to you, but I assure you that Satan is watching our lives, especially if we are being fruitful for the Lord. He would like nothing more than to destroy each of our homes and render this body of believers unable to reach the lost. He would like to defeat us so that we no longer gathered to worship God.

III. The Defender (10b) – **I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.** Remember that Jesus is the Door. He is the Shepherd who guards and defends the sheep. This verse reveals much about the character and commitment of Christ for His sheep. Notice:

A. His Person – He refers to Himself as the I Am. These verses speak of one of the “I Am’s” found in the Gospels. This clearly brings to mind Moses’ encounter with God at the burning bush. Jesus is the I Am; He is the Almighty, self-existent God.

- What are we to fear as long as the I Am is guarding our lives and keeping our souls? I am not depending upon one who is weak and frail. I am trusting and resting in the all powerful, all knowing, all seeing God!

B. His Presence – Jesus said, “**I am come.**” The scoffers and doubters of that day denied that Jesus was the Christ. They refused to believe that the Messiah had actually come, but Jesus had come and was in their midst.

- Many today continue to doubt the coming and even the existence of our Lord, but that doesn’t diminish or hinder His power. He came the first time just as the Scriptures declared. He fulfilled salvation’s plan, fully defeating sin, death, and Satan. He left with the promise that He would come again! I have no doubt that our Lord will return just as He said. In the mean time, we have the blessed Holy Spirit abiding in us to guard and guide our lives.

C. His Purpose – **I am come that they might have life.** With the first of God’s creation, sin entered the hearts of men. Because of Adam’s fall, all are born in sin and condemned to death. Jesus came to redeem us from our fallen state and provide eternal life. [Rom.6:23 – For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.](#)

- Jesus did not come to discover the state of affairs here on earth. He did not come to establish Himself as God. He came to offer Himself as a Sacrifice for the sins of humanity and grant those who come to Him eternal life. That was His divine plan and purpose.

D. His Provision – **I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.** Jesus didn’t come just to secure life; He came to secure life more abundantly. This reveals a beautiful and promising hope for all who belong to Jesus. It means “*exceeding a fixed measure or need; over and above that which is necessary; superior, extraordinary, surpassing.*”

- I am convinced that God has much more for us than what we currently enjoy. All the saved will enjoy life beyond our wildest expectations in heaven, but we are promised abundant life today. Christ wants us to experience life in its fullness through Him. We could enjoy life over and above that which is necessary if we would only commit to seeking and serving our Lord. The Shepherd knows what is best for His sheep, but often we are determined to seek out our own pasture. I want to abide in His abundance, enjoying all that He has for me!

As I close today I have to ask, have you entered in through the Door? It is open to all who desire to pass through. We need to make our abode within the fold, depending on the Shepherd to guard and guide us. There is a clear and present danger outside of the sheep fold. If you have never trusted Christ as your Savior, I beg you to come to Him today.

Christian, are you enjoying the abundant life that Jesus promised? Are you fully resting in Him? I fear that many of us never reach the abundance of life that we could enjoy on this side of heaven. If your life is not where it should be, why not come and seek the Lord so that you might have life more abundantly?