

The "I am" sayings of Jesus

John 10:1-10 – The Door

Jesus provides another metaphor as a picture of himself, "I am the door". The word in the original Greek can be translated, door, gate, entrance. To get a grasp on what Jesus is saying with this metaphor, we need to see the passage in context and unfortunately we are not helped by the chapter division at this point. "We should read this passage remembering what has just been going on. The question that dominated chapter 9 was: is Jesus from God or not? Is he a prophet or not? Is he the Messiah or not, the 'son of man' whom God will set as judge over the world?"¹ The Pharisees, in chapter 9, had been questioning the man who had been healed of blindness. They had challenged this man from their position of unbelief, but when he challenged them from his growing belief, they threw him out. Excommunicated him. These leaders of the community, shepherds of the people, put him out of the synagogue because he believed Jesus was from God.

When Jesus heard that the man had been thrown out, he found him and brought him into the community of those who live by faith in the Son of Man. The door to the synagogue, the community of Israel, had been shut to this man, but the door to the new community of Jesus had been opened wide. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who found the man. He is the door through which the man became part of the new community of God.

Open

- The Door by Miroslav Holub² – How does the poet use the door to stir our imagination?

Go and open the door. Perhaps outside there's a tree, or a wood, or a garden, or a magic town. Go and open the door. Perhaps outside there's a dog scratching. Perhaps there's a face outside, or an eye or the picture of a picture. Go and open the door. If there's fog outside it will go.	Go and open the door. There could be outside only singing darkness, and there could be outside only wind's hollow breath and there could be absolutely nothing outside, go and open the door. At least there would be a draught.
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Study

Read together : John 9:35 -10:10

¹ Wright, T. (2004). *John for Everyone, Part 1: Chapters 1-10* (148). London: Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.

² <http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone/clips/miroslav-holub-the-door-poem-only/8838.html> or
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone/clips/miroslav-holub-the-door-poem-only/6466.html>

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1. What are the differences between the shepherd of the sheep and the strangers? (John 10:1-5)
2. "Jesus used this figure of speech, but they did not understand what he was telling them." What do you think Jesus was telling them with this parable? Why didn't they understand? (John 10:6, cf John 9:16,22,24,29,35-38)

Consider

3. "His sheep follow... because they know his voice". How is it that the sheep know the shepherd's voice? How is it that we know the voice of Jesus? (John 10:3b cf John 1:11-13)
4. Who are the thieves and robbers? (John 10:1, 8 cf Ezekiel 34:1-6)
5. "I am the gate (door)." What do you think Jesus is saying through this metaphor? (John 10:7,9 cf Psalm 118:19-21 "*In many Eastern sheepfolds, the shepherd lies down at night in the gateway, to stop the sheep getting out and to stop predators getting in.*"³)

³ Wright, T. (2004). *John for Everyone, Part 1: Chapters 1-10* (150). London: Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.

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Consider

6. A door, or gate, is there to let some in and shut others out. To whom is Jesus a closed door and who finds him an open door? Explain your answers.

7. What do you think is the significance of the expression, “come in and go out”? (John 10:9 cf Numbers 27:16-17, Deut 28:1-6, Psalm 121:7-8)

8. “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” How might Jesus' hearers have understood this? (John 10:10, cf Ezekiel 34:12-15, 25-31) What does it mean to you? (2 Peter 1:3)

Consider

9. What happens when you enter through the door? (John 10:9-10)

To chew over until the next study:

“The call today to Jesus’ true sheep is to listen for his voice, and to find in him and him alone the life which is overflowing life indeed.”⁴

“Jesus the Shepherd provides security for His flock from enemies (**whoever enters through Me will be saved**, or “kept safe”). He also provides for their daily needs (the sheep **come in and go out, and find pasture**).”⁵

“This is the LORD’s gate – the godly enter through it. I will give you thanks, for you answered me, and have become my deliverer.”⁶

⁴ Wright, T. (2004). *John for Everyone, Part 1: Chapters 1-10* (150). London: Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.

⁵ Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-). *The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures* (Jn 10:7–9). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

⁶ *The NET Bible First Edition*; (Ps 118:19–21). Biblical Studies Press.