

JOHN, THE GOSPEL OF BELIEF

John 10: *The Good Shepherd*

A “I am the gate [door]” (1-10)

John 10:1 “I assure you, anyone who sneaks over the wall of a sheepfold, rather than going through the gate [*door*], must surely be a thief and a robber! **2** For a shepherd enters through the gate. **3** The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice and come to him. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. **4** After he has gathered his own flock, he walks ahead of them, and they follow him because they recognize his voice. **5** They won’t follow a stranger; they will run from him because they don’t recognize his voice.” **6** Those who heard Jesus use this illustration didn’t understand what he meant, **7** so he explained it to them. “I assure you, I am the gate for the sheep,” he said. **8** “All others who came before me were thieves and robbers. But the true sheep did not listen to them. **9** Yes, I am the gate. Those who come in through me will be saved. Wherever they go, they will find green pastures. **10** The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give life in all its fullness.

B “I am the good shepherds” (11-18)

John 10:11 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. **12** A hired hand will run when he sees a wolf coming. He will leave the sheep because they aren’t his and he isn’t their shepherd. And so the wolf attacks them and scatters the flock. **13** The hired hand runs away because he is merely hired and has no real concern for the sheep. **14** “I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me, **15** just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. **16** I have other sheep, too, that are not in this sheepfold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice; and there will be one flock with one shepherd. **17** “The Father loves me because I lay down my life that I may have it back again. **18** No one can take my life from me. I lay down my life voluntarily. For I have the right to lay it down when I want to and also the power to take it again. For my Father has given me this command.”

C Response of the people (19-21)

John 10:19 When he said these things, the people were again divided in their opinions about him. **20** Some of them said, “He has a demon, or he’s crazy. Why listen to a man like that?” **21** Others said, “This doesn’t sound like a man possessed by a demon! Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”

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D The Shepherd and His Father (22-30)

John 10:22 It was now winter, and Jesus was in Jerusalem at the time of Hanukkah. **23** He was at the Temple, walking through the section known as Solomon's Colonnade. **24** The Jewish leaders surrounded him and asked, "How long are you going to keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." **25** Jesus replied, "I have already told you, and you don't believe me. The proof is what I do in the name of my Father. **26** But you don't believe me because you are not part of my flock. **27** My sheep recognize my voice; I know them, and they follow me. **28** I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them away from me, **29** for my Father has given them to me, and he is more powerful than anyone else. So no one can take them from me. **30** The Father and I are one."

E The charge of blasphemy (31-38)

John 10:31 Once again the Jewish leaders picked up stones to kill him. **32** Jesus said, "At my Father's direction I have done many things to help the people. For which one of these good deeds are you killing me?" **33** They replied, "Not for any good work, but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, have made yourself God." **34** Jesus replied, "It is written in your own law that God said to certain leaders of the people, 'I say, you are gods!' **35** And you know that the Scriptures cannot be altered. So if those people, who received God's message, were called 'gods,' **36** why do you call it blasphemy when the Holy One who was sent into the world by the Father says, 'I am the Son of God'? **37** Don't believe me unless I carry out my Father's work. **38** But if I do his work, believe in what I have done, even if you don't believe me. Then you will realize that the Father is in me, and I am in the Father."

F Belief beyond the river (39-42)

John 10:39 Once again they tried to arrest him, but he got away and left them. **40** He went beyond the Jordan River to stay near the place where John was first baptizing. **41** And many followed him. "John didn't do miracles," they remarked to one another, "but all his predictions about this man have come true." **42** And many believed in him there.