

Our 40 Day Journey to the Cross

Day 2 Thursday, February 23

“Jesus, the Good Shepherd”

Please Read John 10:7-21

John 10:7

“Then Jesus said to them again, “Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.”

“I am the door of the sheep” Jesus gave a visual illustration from sheep farming in His time. Out in the pasturelands for sheep, pens were made with only one entrance. The door for those sheep pens was the shepherd himself. He laid his body across the entrance, to keep the sheep in and to keep out the wolves. The shepherd was in fact the door.

Don't be deceived by how the corruption and sinful practices within the house of God entered in the first place. If a good shepherd is at the door he will fight to keep predators out of the sheep pen (the church, the congregation) but if a thief or robber is at the door then that illegitimate shepherd will allow predators in the sheep pen.

“Thieves and Robbers”

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

“Thief” implies deception and trickery; “robber” implies violence and destruction. More and more we hear of church disputes resulting in physical confrontations, pastors being forcibly removed from the pulpit, law enforcement intervention and arrests. Preaching prosperity gospel and not the gospel of Jesus Christ for personal gain and fame. These things do not give life it takes away life.

“Abundant Life”

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.

“The Greek word for ‘abundance,’ *perissos*, has a mathematical meaning and generally implies a surplus.

The abundant life is above all the contented life, in which our contentment is based upon the fact that God is equal to every emergency and is able to supply all our needs according to His riches and glory in Christ Jesus.”

(James Boice)

- Abundant life isn't an especially long life
- Abundant life isn't an easy, comfortable life
- Abundant life is a life of satisfaction and contentment in Jesus

Jesus declares that “I am come” and “I came”, not to preserve a life already possessed, but to impart a life to you has never before been known. A life that is rich and abundant in mercy, grace, joy, peace, hope, strength and God’s unfailing love.

“I have power”

17 “Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again.

18 No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.”

19 Therefore there was a division again among the Jews because of these sayings.

20 And many of them said, “He has a demon and is mad. Why do you listen to Him?”

21 Others said, “These are not the words of one who has a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”

Jesus claims to have power over life and death— even His own—as granted to Him by God. He predicts His own death and resurrection.

Anyone can lay down his life; only Jesus could take His life up again. Because Jesus has the power to take up His own life, it is evidence of His unique relationship with His Father.

Jesus is still debating with religious critics who are angry over His recent miracle in John 9. There, Jesus gave sight to a man born blind, which sparked debates that did not end well for the local religious leaders.

Jesus made such radical claims about Himself that people divided over Him. Some believe He was who He said He was. Others believed that anyone who claimed to be God as Jesus claimed must either have a demon or be mad. This leads to controversy.

Conclusion:

Jesus is saying the same thing he will say in John 14:6: “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” I am the door. If you believe in me, you will be saved; and you will go in and out and find pasture. You are saved from wolves and thieves that come to kill and destroy. Enter by me and you will be forever safe. Saved.

Exercise:

Write down the things that through Christ have become abundant in your life