

Fil-Am Community Church

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Key Verses John 10: 1-10

Psalms 23

“Jesus my Protector the True Shepherd”

John 10:1-10 and Psalms 23 are the key verses this morning however...

Before we get into the word this morning lets first set the stage, by looking at sheep and then sheep-tending.

If you were to ask any of the children here this morning if they could be any animal what would it be and why?

I would venture to say that none of them would pick a sheep. It is never the team mascot; you always have the wildcats, the dragons, etc. but never the Springfield sheep!

Why?

Sheep are defenseless; they need constant guidance and protection. They do not seem to have the claws, or size or tusks that other animals have; they are at the mercy of those predators and depend upon the watchful eye of the shepherd taking care of them.

To properly understand our text this morning it will be beneficial for us to understand a little bit about sheep-tending in the Middle East.

In the Western world, methods of sheep-tending differ in general with those in the Middle East. In the West, the Shepherd, along with a sheep-herding dog or two, usually follows the flock.

But shepherds in the East walk out in front, leading their sheep. In the Holy Land, a shepherd leads his sheep all during the day from pasture to pasture.

Then, in the evening, he calls them to him.

The sheep follow after their shepherd to a watering place & then to the sheep-fold, where they bed down safely through the night.

According to Eastern custom, the pens are always composed of rock, to provide safety from such enemies as thieves and wild animals. They often place sharp thorns or briars on top of the rocks to keep out wolves & other predators.

An opening (gate) is left in the middle of one side of the rock-walled pens. At night the shepherd stands at this entrance & examines each sheep as it enters into the fold.

The shepherd next builds a fire outside the entrance to scare off wild beasts. Then he eats his dinner, and lies down for the night.

He places his body across the entranceway to the pen, satisfied that his sheep are safe--In essence, the shepherd is the gate--& no one or nothing can pass into the sheepfold, unless it walks through him.

In John 10:1-10 we learn that **Jesus is the gate**, & if we will become His sheep we will gain entrance to many wonderful things.

John 10:1-10 (NASB)

¹ *“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbs up some other way, he is a thief and a robber. ² But he who enters by the door is a **shepherd** of the sheep. ³ To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he puts forth all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they **know his voice**. ⁵ A stranger they simply will not follow, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers.”⁶ This figure of speech Jesus spoke to them, but they did not understand what those things were which He had been saying to them.*

⁷ *So Jesus said to them again, **“Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. ⁹ I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved,***

*and will go in and out and find pasture.¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may **have life**, and have it abundantly.*

The 1st thing we see when Jesus is your protector is...

1. Jesus my protector is my entrance to Salvation.

Romans 6:23, *“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

Ephesians 2:8, *“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;”*

John 10:9, *“Jesus said, “I am the door; if anyone enters through me, **he shall be saved**, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.”*

The point of Jesus' statement "I am the door" is that the Pharisees were rejecting their only access to God.

Acts 4:11-12, *“He is the stone which was rejected by you, the builders, but which became the very cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved.”*

One thing we see from the above passages is that Jesus (the Good Shepherd our protector) enters the correct way as found in verses 1-2. He also mentions that others may try and enter the wrong way or some other way, however reminds us that he (Alone) is the door and that no man can truly enter without him.

John 14:6 when Jesus said, *“I am **the way, and the truth, and the life**; no one comes to the Father but by Me.”*

Jesus the Good Shepherd is our entrance to Salvation!

Salvation: The common Hebrew words for Salvation, ultimately derived from the root words meaning; Width, Spacious, Freedom from constraint...

Hence Deliverance!

When we come to Jesus we are both saved from something & saved for something.

The 1st thing we see when Jesus is your protector is my entrance to Salvation. The 2nd thing we see when Jesus is your protection is my entrance to...

2. Jesus my protector is my entrance to Security.

In 1937 the Great Golden Gate Bridge was completed. It costs \$77 Million dollars and was built in two stages. The first stage was completed very slowly and the second phase very rapidly.

In the first stage, 23 men fell to their deaths. The work ground to a halt because, fear paralyzed the workmen as helpless they watched their companions plummeting from the structures, to their death below.

Finally, an ingenious, person thought there should be a net below us. So for \$100,000 they made the largest net and hung it beneath the workmen.

When phase two began, 10 men were saved, who had fallen into the net. The work proceeded at a 25% increase rate until the job was complete.

John 10:9, *"Jesus said, "I am the door; if anyone enters through me, **he shall be saved**, and shall go in and out, and find pasture."*

Jesus was a living door, a talking door, a speaking door who invites us in:

- Won't you come in?
- Won't you come in to my Father's house?
- Won't you come into my Father's love?
- Won't you come into my Father's family?

Jesus is a living door, a living door that speaks and invites us to come into the Father's house and into the Father's family and into the Father's eternity which can begin **RIGHT NOW, HERE TODAY**.

I have been thinking about what a door to an office represents. Would you please imagine the door to an office, someday at our church, or in your workspace?

Thinking back to when I was a Master Gunnery Sergeant in the Marine Corps, when the door to my office closed, people normally don't come in very easily. When the door is closed, it gives a message: "Stay away. I am busy, I'm preoccupied" I don't want to be bothered right now!

If, on the other hand, I leave the door wide open, everyone knows that they can stick their head in my office and say, "Hi there" or that they can feel free to walk right in and say, "Pastor Dave or MGySgt do you have a moment?"

But let's take it a step further and say that I personally am the door and I am personally standing there in the doorway and I am personally addressing you and everybody that comes along by saying:

"Good morning. Won't you come in to chat? What's going on in your life right now? Won't you come in?" Almost all of you would come in and chat.

Saints that is the way it is with Jesus.

- Jesus is the living door,
- the talking door,
- the speaking door and he invites us:

Won't you come into my Father's house?

Into green pastures.

Into security.

Into the safety of his arms.

Jesus describes the sheep pen and himself as the door, so when the sheep returned to the fold after a long day of grazing, the shepherd (Jesus) stood in the door way and inspected each of them as they entered.

If a sheep was scratched, or wounded by thorns, he would anoint it with oil to help facilitate the healing.

If they were thirsty, he gave them water, if they were hungry he fed them, and once all were accounted for and were safely inside he would lay his body across the doorway, so no intruders could enter.

John 10:28-29, *"I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand."*

Hebrews 7:25, *"Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them."*

Christmas Eve of 1875 the singer Ira Sankey was traveling up the Delaware River on a steamboat. He was recognized by some of the passengers as the song leader of D.L Moody, and they asked him to sing one of his songs.

He started to sing the song by William Bradbury, "Savior like a Shepherd lead us" When he finished singing a man stepped from the shadows and asked "Did you ever serve in the Union Army?"

Yes I Did, he responded.

The man said do you remember doing picket duty on a bright moonlight night in 1862?

My Sankey said I am sure I did quite a few, did you do the same?

The man replied I did too, but I was not with the Union Army I was a Confederate Soldier and saw you standing your post on one of those moonlight nights.

I had you in my sights and said you will never get away alive, so I raised my musket and took aim.

I was standing in the shadows completely concealed, and as my finger started to slowly steady squeeze of the trigger for your death shot, just as you did a few minutes ago you lifted your eyes to Heaven and proceeded to sing the song you just sang, "Savior like a Shepherd lead us."

Those words stirred up many memories, of my childhood in the church, of my family and friends. I decided that I would wait and kill you after the song, so as you sang I was taken away to a happier place.

After the song ended I just stood there and thought to myself, The Lord who is able to save that man from certain death must surely be a Shepherd, and my arm of its own accord, and musket dropped limp at my side.

Psalms 91:1-2, "Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress."

The 1st thing we see when Jesus is your protector is my entrance to Salvation
 The 2nd thing we see when Jesus is your protection is my entrance Security
 The Third thing we see when Jesus is your protection is my entrance to...

3. Jesus my protector is my entrance to Satisfaction.

Proverbs 19:23, "The fear of the LORD leads to life, So that one may sleep satisfied, untouched by evil."

John 4: 14 -15, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life." The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, so I will not be thirsty nor come all the way here to draw."

Psalms 23:2, "He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters."

In Psalms 23 David says the Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. Instinctively the sheep knows the shepherd has made plans for grazing. He knows the shepherd has made all the provisions needed so he can lie down in peace. Just like the piece of bread in the child's hands.

Look again at the Psalms 23 and see a few things that you might not have seen before...

The Lord is my Shepherd, that **Relationship**,
 I shall not want, that's **Supply**,
 He makes me lie down on Green pastures, that's **Rest**,
 he leads me beside the still waters, that's **Refreshment**,

He restores my soul, that's **Healing**,
 He leads me in the path of righteousness, that's **Guidance**,
 For his name sake, that's **Purpose**,
 Yea though I walk through the valley of shadow of death, that's **Testing**,
 I will fear no evil, that's **Protection**,
 For thou art with me, that's **Faithfulness**,
 Thy Rod and Staff comfort me, that's **Discipline**,
 Prepares a table before me, that's **Hope**,
 Anoints my head with oil, that's **Consecration**,
 My cup runs over, that's **Abundance**,
 Surely goodness & mercy shall follow me, that's **Blessing**,
 And I will dwell in the house of the Lord, that's **Security**,
 Forever, that's **Eternity!**

Hebrews 13:5-6, *"The Lord will **sustain us**. He is our Strength and Provider. He has promised "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you." We confidently say, "The Lord is my helper, **I will not be afraid.**"*

As God's children, we are as sheep in the midst of a green pasture. We are free to nourish ourselves on what the Lord has provided.

We need not be hungry or thirsty. We can stay with the Lord and know His protection. It would certainly be foolish to wander off on our own.

There is a protection when one lives within the communities, filled within a Christian family, Christian friends, or Christian connections.

When you join a church and Christian church people become your family, you find a greater safety and security than outside the Christian family/church.

There is protection from the foolishness and craziness of life within the good shepherd and the Christian community.

There is a spiritual, emotional and psychological security and safety within Jesus and his community, within the protectiveness of Christ and Christian friends and Christian family.

Jesus stands at the gate, trying to keep the evil things away from your life. My heart and mind shake with fear and uneasiness when I see people who do not think that they need the protection of Christ and the Christian community for themselves and their loved ones.

The Shepherd leads His sheep to the place where they can eat, where they can find satisfaction for their physical needs.

The need that we most often have is not physical, but spiritual.

I remember the Rolling Stones singing "I can't get no satisfaction."

They said that they tried & tried & tried & tried, but they still couldn't get any satisfaction.

Many of us have tried, like the Rolling Stones, to find some satisfaction, but we find we keep coming up empty.

The problem is that we keep going to the wrong sources.

Some try to satisfy themselves by getting more money--& they find that they only want more.

Some try to satisfy themselves through drugs & alcohol, & find that their dissatisfaction only grows worse.

Some try to satisfy themselves by becoming successful, but they find that success is subjective & they never know when they've really made it.

True satisfaction only comes when we find **spiritual pasture**.

- Jesus will satisfy our spiritual needs.
- He will take that hollow feeling & fill it with his grace.
- Jesus will satisfy our emotional needs.
- His will be the hand that wipes away our tears.

- Jesus will satisfy our need for community.

Have you found true satisfaction?

You have if you've truly found Jesus.

God didn't create you to have that void in your life.

He wants you to be satisfied--but it will only happen when you're ready to come to the Shepherd & be His sheep.

You can have today, if you'll only walk through the Gate.

Know Jesus, Know Peace... No Jesus No Peace!

What have you done this week that nobody but a Christian would do?

Let us Pray.....