

# HEAR MINISTRIES

Sermon for Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Text: John 10:1-10

Recorded by: Tammy Springer

*Let us Pray: Lord, we thank You that You are our Good Shepherd. Help us to quiet our minds and hearts to hear Your voice this morning and to follow You. Lord, may the words of my mouth and the mediation of our hearts be pleasing in Your sight. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

I read of a person who needed to use the restroom rather badly and pushed open the first door that looked like it would be a rest room.....unfortunately, it wasn't one! It was a meeting someone was holding and that person was definitely NOT supposed to be there! The lesson learned? **You don't end up in the right place by walking through the wrong door!**

In our Gospel lesson today **Jesus states clearly that HE is the “door of the sheep.” (John 10:7)** He is giving an analogy of the sheepfold (the house or pen where sheep live) and the sheep that come in and out of the sheepfolds.

In this analogy, Jesus is saying **we are like sheep**. Sheep are **prone to wander, get turned around, confused, or completely lost**. They are utterly defenseless against predators and thieves. Frankly, so are we! **Especially when the predators and thieves are the devil, the world and our flesh!** Yes, human beings are strong and intelligent and creative and can do some amazing things! But **we are also prone to sin, causing and finding trouble for ourselves and others, and we are prone to wandering away from the safety and security of God's loving embrace**. The Old Testament prophet Isaiah says, “*All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, everyone, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.*” (Isaiah 53:6)

I read that there are basically **two kinds of sheepfolds**. The **first** is the **large communal fold**. The **second** is a **smaller fold the shepherd builds out in the fields**. During the hot summer months, the shepherds sometimes have to take their flocks farther into the wilderness to find enough food and fresh water to sustain them. When they do this they don't return to the large communal fold every night. They build a **temporary fold out in the wilderness** to protect the flock at night when it's dark.

**Thieves** are the primary danger to the flocks in the large communal fold. But out in the wilderness in the smaller folds, **predators** are the main danger. So, the shepherd builds a temporary sheepfold out of stones and branches and whatever else he can find. It's pretty rustic and it doesn't have a door in the opening. Instead, **the shepherd himself sleeps in the opening**. For a sheep to escape, they have to climb over him. **He protects the flock using his body as the door. This is the kind of sheepfold Jesus is talking about in John 10:7-10.**

**The shepherd is the only way in or out.** The sheepfold represents safety and security and healing care. The way into the fold is **through Jesus**. The pasture and fields represent freedom and life and provision. The way out into the fields is **through Jesus**. He is the door. And, according to Jesus Himself, **He is the ONLY door! There is no other.**

In our modern, pluralistic society, that doesn't sit well. Our culture says all roads lead to God, all religions lead to God. But **Jesus says, "I am the door." (John 10:9) Not A door. THE door.** He's making an exclusive claim. No one else can make this claim. "*I am THE door,*" Jesus said. (John 10:9)

Now, maybe you are sitting there thinking, "*Man, I've already heard all this....I know about Jesus.*" **Do you know Him in your head or in your heart?** Maybe someone you know doesn't know about Jesus, the **ONLY** way to eternal life. You could **invite** them to learn about Him.

**Jesus doesn't coerce the sheep through the gate. He invites.** Those who reject Jesus are free to reject Him. That doesn't mean they are free of the consequences of their decision to reject Him, but they are free to reject Him.

**Following Jesus**, hearing and listening to and longing for His voice, receiving His healing care, **means living fully as His followers in this world in such a way that His light shines through us so that others are drawn to that Light.** It means we swim against the current of our culture, and at times, our own hearts, in ways that others can see, knowing that sometimes we will be mocked or yelled at in anger or ignored or screamed at. **But we don't force it on people. Jesus invites.** He said, *"I am the door."* (John 10:9) **He is the way into God's forgiveness and loving embrace, and Jesus is the way into the abundant life that God has for us. Remember the lesson about the doors? If you walk through the wrong door, you'll end up on the wrong place.**

This is a bit unorthodox, but I would like you to **close your eyes** (don't fall asleep!) and **imagine for a moment that you are in your bedroom in a building that is very high up – like 23 stories high.**

- The fire alarm has just gone off and you need to get out.
- Unfortunately, the lock on your bedroom door has jammed so the only way out is through the window.
- If you jump out of the window, you could hurt yourself badly or you could even die.

On the ground below, there are FIVE people who are shouting at you. They are all telling you different things to do, but **which one will you trust to rescue you???**

The first person you hear is called Mike. He says: *"Stay where you are. You will be fine. The fire won't affect you."*

The second person you hear is called Alice. She says: *"Just jump. The grass will give you a nice soft landing."*

The third person you hear is called Eric. He says: *"I have got a big fishing net here. Jump and I will catch you."*

The fourth person you hear is called Melissa. She says: *"You can do this. Tie your sheets together and make your own way down."*

The fifth person you hear is your dad, who is a firefighter. He says: *“Don’t worry. Your firefighter dad is here to rescue you and I am trained to do this. I am coming to get you and will bring you down to safety.”*

**Which person out of Mike, Alice, Eric, Melissa and your dad would you trust to rescue you? You can open your eyes now.**

**The obvious answer to this question is that only your dad can save you because, as a firefighter, he is qualified to rescue people.**

**NOW, for a BIGGER question: Who will you trust to rescue you from the effects of your sin and your separation from God?**

Around us in life there will be all sorts of people telling us to do different things, but **which one will you trust to rescue you?**

In the fire situation, Mike told you to stay where you were.

- In real life, people will tell us that it doesn’t matter how we live. Keep doing what you’re doing....sin doesn’t matter and you don’t really need rescuing!

In the fire situation, Alice told you to jump and you would land safely on the grass.

- In real life, people will tell us that any religion can rescue us.....just be ‘spiritual’ and you’ll be fine.

In the fire situation, Eric told you to jump and he would catch you in his fishing net.

- In real life, people will tell us that as long as we were baptized as a baby we can ignore God for the rest of our life.

In the fire situation, Melissa told you to rescue yourself by tying up sheets together.

- In real life, people will tell us we’ll be fine as long as we live a good life and do lots of good things.

In the fire situation, your dad told you that he could rescue you because he was trained to rescue people.

- In real life, Jesus said: “I am the door; whoever enters through Me will be saved.” (John 10:9)

**Jesus is able to rescue us from the effects of our sin and separation from God because He paid for our sin when He laid down his life for us on the cross.**

- There is only ONE way to be rescued.
- That is what Jesus meant when He said that He is the door.
- Have you let Jesus rescue YOU yet?

Jesus said, “*I am the door.*” (John 10:9) Jesus is THE ONLY way into God’s forgiveness and loving embrace. Jesus is THE ONLY way into the abundant life that God has for you and for me. **Remember the lesson about the doors: walk through the wrong one and you’ll wind up in the wrong place.**

**Have you walked through the ONLY door to abundant life yet? Jesus invites you to come.**

**Amen.**