

5-6-2026 – I AM – part 3

The “I AM” statements of Jesus from John’s Gospel. “I AM”- God’s name.

- Last week, **1** - I Am the Bread of Life (John 6:35)

2 – “I am the light of the world” (John 8:12, 9:5):

This week - statements **#3** “I am the gate” & **#4** “I am the good Shepherd”

John 10 - I Am the Gate & I Am the Good Shepherd

“Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

⁷Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, **I am the gate for the sheep.** ⁸All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. ⁹**I am the gate;** whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

The 3rd “**I am**” statement. “I am” – refers back to God’s name/Moses.

- He is **addressing** the **Pharisees** . . . they should see the connection.

The **Gate/Door** – has 4 specific meanings as used by Jesus.

1 – Thieves/robbers before, false Messiahs . . . some will come later.

○ **Jesus is the only Messiah.** The only Son of God. 300+ prophecies.

2 – “I am the Gate” also means – He is **the access to Heaven/Father.**

○ **John 14:6** – “No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

- **Eternal life** with God the Father is thru **belief** in Jesus and **acceptance** of Him as Lord of our lives.
 - More on this **next week**.
 - But here is a connection – Jesus said, ⁹ **I am the gate**; whoever enters through me will be saved.”
 - [Acts 4:12](#) – “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

3 - Jesus as the Gate also means He is the **Pathway to Righteousness**.

- [Psalm 118:19-20](#) – “Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter and give thanks to the LORD. / This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.”
- Psalm 23:3 – “He leadeth me in paths of righteousness”
- Christians/“Christ-like”... followers of Jesus’ teaching.
 - That is the way to righteousness.
 - B/c “There is no one righteous, not even one” – **Rom. 3:10**
 - We aren’t born righteous; we can’t become righteous on our own, thru human effort.
 - **Isaiah 64:6** - all our righteous acts are like filthy rags”
 - We are made righteous thru Jesus Christ.

4 - The Gate also shows the sheep are in **a place of protection**.

- Cultural context: sheepfolds often had a single entrance, and the shepherd would act as the gate, protecting the sheep.
- God has always been seen as Protector of His people.

“He will cover you with His wings; you will be safe in His care” – **Ps 91:4**

“The Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one.” – **2 Thes. 3:3**

“The Lord will keep you from all harm— he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming & going both now and forevermore.” **Ps 121:7-8**

Ezekiel 34:12 – “As a shepherd looks for his scattered sheep when he is among the flock, so I will look for My flock. I will rescue them from all the places to which they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness.”

Psalms 100:3 – “Know that the LORD is God. It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.”

- Jesus is saying to us – “I Am” - As the Son of God, I am your protector.
 - Jesus - the “**gate for the Sheep**”; **we are the sheep**.
 - The Sheep are dependent on the Shepherd.
 - Leads us to “I Am” statement #4

¹¹ **“I am the good shepherd.** The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴ **“I am the good shepherd;** I know my sheep and my sheep know me— ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.

Jesus’ 4th “**I am**” statement also connects Jesus w/ God.

- In the Old Testament, God is the shepherd of his people (**Isa 40:10–11**).
 - **Psalms 23:1** – “The Lord is my Shepherd, I have all that I need.”
 - **Isa 40:11** – “He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.”
- Jesus is the Good Shepherd.
 - i. We – the sheep are under Jesus’ protection. He is our defender - Nothing can harm His flock.

- ii. He goes ahead of the sheep. We have a path to follow.
- iii. He lays down His life for the Sheep – willing sacrifice so the sheep will live.
- iv. His sacrifice is the ultimate act of love for us.