

JESUS IS THE GATE & THE GOOD SHEPHERD

John 10:1-21



SYNOPSIS

This chapter concludes a three-chapter series of events involving Jesus at the Feast of Tabernacles. John continues to highlight Jesus's claims to be Israel's Messiah. Each of Jesus's seven "I am" statements were claims that alluded to prophecy and that collaterally proved his superiority over Greek gods. In today's passage, John highlights Jesus's claims to be the gate and the good shepherd, and, thus, his superiority over Janus and Pan, respectively.



OUTLINE

1 CHIASM IN JOHN 10

Jewish writers used chiasm as a literary device to highlight the point in the middle of the structure. John sandwiched Jesus's "I am the gate for the sheep" statement between mirrored themes of thieves and robbers, the true/good shepherd, the voice of the shepherd, and misunderstandings of Jesus's saying. John highlighted Jesus's claim to be the gate by surrounding it with claims to be the Shepherd-King.

2 THE SHEPHERD-KING

Jesus's allusion to being a good shepherd was both a metaphor and prophetic fulfillment. He states that a good shepherd 1) has intimate familiarity with the sheep (v. 3); is courageous (v. 12); and would sacrifice himself for his sheep (v. 17). Intimate familiarity allows a good shepherd to call from the gate of the sheepfold and have his sheep come out from among the other flocks because his sheep know his voice. Courage causes a good shepherd to never abandon his flock when wolves come. But very few shepherds, no matter how good, would lay down their own lives for their sheep. Jesus not only laid down his life, he also took it up again for our sake. Greek gods were fickle and aloof; John highlights Jesus's intimate knowledge of his flock and his sacrificial love for us. The Shepherd-King was prophesied in the Old Testament (first occurrence was Gen 48:15), and Jesus's claim to be the Good Shepherd alluded to those prophecies.

3 JESUS VS. JANUS

The Shepherd-King was prophesied by at least five prophets. Micah specifically says the Shepherd King would call for his sheep to break through the gate (Hebrew word *parats*: to storm, burst, or break out). (Mic 2:12-14) Is the gate you're breaking through Janus or Jesus? We often face transitions with anxiety, regret, and/or hope in the wrong things (i.e. Janus). But we can choose to approach transitions with trust in Jesus, knowing that he sacrificially loves us and redeems everything. Because of Jesus's death and resurrection, not only can we *parats* in times of transition, we can also *parats* before the throne of grace. (Heb 4:16) May we approach transitions with the joy of a child who anticipates an exciting rollercoaster on the other side of the gate.



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

What is a recent transition you have experienced or will experience? How were/are you approaching it?

2

How do you feel about Jesus being your shepherd? Do you experience him as "good"?

3

Do you feel that you can hear Jesus's voice? How do you feel about your current familiarity with Jesus's voice?

4

What would it take for you to *parats* through your next transition into what Father has for you on the other side?

5

What would it take for you to *parats* before the throne of grace (Heb 4:16; Eph 3:12)?



BIG IDEA

Know God's heart for you. It is a heart that desires intimate familiarity, that shows up to protect and support in times of danger, and that sacrificially loves. Jesus is offering a fresh voice so that we can break through into abundant life.

