



## **The Gospel According to John 10:1–10**

### **“Hearing the Voice of the Shepherd”**

In this passage, Jesus offers us a simple yet powerful image: sheep and a shepherd. To us, it may feel distant, but for those who first heard it, it was part of everyday life. Sheep depended entirely on their shepherd, not only for protection, but for guidance and survival.

Jesus is not merely telling a story; But He is revealing something deeper about who He is, and who we are. He begins by contrasting two figures: the shepherd and the thief. The shepherd enters through the gate, while the thief climbs in another way. The shepherd is trustworthy and true; the thief is deceptive. And Jesus says, “The sheep hear the shepherd’s voice, and they follow him.”

This gently brings us to an important question: Whose voice are we listening to?

We live in a world filled with many voices. Culture tells us what success should look like. Social media shapes who we think we should be. Fear whispers that we should stay safe, stay guarded, and remain small. But the voice of Jesus is different. It calls us by name. It leads us—it does not push or pressure. And it brings peace, not confusion. As Scripture reminds us, “For God is not a God of confusion but of peace” (1 Corinthians 14:33).

### **The Danger of False Voices**

Jesus also gives a clear and sobering warning: “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.” These are strong words, spoken with purpose. False voices do not always appear harmful at first—they can sound appealing, even convincing. But over time, they steal our joy, diminish our purpose, and disturb and destroy our peace. Because of this, Jesus calls us to be discerning. Anything that draws us away from truth, from the love of God, or from His presence is not to be trusted.

And often, what leads us astray is not obvious evil, but subtle shifts—trusting ourselves more than God, chasing things that never truly satisfy, or living disconnected from His truth.

We live in a world where people can misuse influence, where false teachings can spread, where some claim to be Christ, and where some even claim authority or power that does not come from God. That is why Jesus warns us not to be misled. He says such individuals and voices are like thieves and bandits—their purpose is to steal, kill, and destroy. However, in contrast to all of this, Jesus offers something entirely different: life—and life abundantly. As Proverbs 3:5 reminds us, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.”

### **Jesus the Gate**

Then Jesus makes another bold and beautiful declaration: “I am the gate.” Not a gate—but the gate. With these words, He makes it clear that He is the way to life.

In His time, shepherds would sometimes lie across the entrance of the sheepfold at night, becoming the gate themselves. The sheep could only enter or leave through the shepherd. In the same way, Jesus stands as our way to safety, to belonging, and to God.

Through Him, we find security, direction, and a place to call home. As Psalm 23:1 declares, “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.”

### **The Promise of Abundant Life**

And then comes one of the most beautiful promises in all of Scripture: “I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

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This promise is not only about eternal life after death—it is about a full, meaningful, and joy-filled life here and now. An abundant life is not a life without hardship, but a life marked by peace in the midst of chaos, purpose in times of uncertainty, and a hope that does not fade.

Jesus understands our lives, our struggles, and our circumstances—and still, He promises us fullness of life, both now and forever.

### **A Choice Before Us**

So today, we are left with a choice: will we listen to the noise around us, or will we listen for the voice of the Shepherd? This is what we must remember: Jesus is still calling. He is still leading. He is still offering life. The question is, will we recognize His voice, and will we follow Him?

### **Let Us Pray**

Lord, help us to hear Your voice clearly above all others. Give us wisdom to recognize what is true, and courage to follow wherever You lead. Thank You for being our Shepherd, our Gate, and the source of abundant life.

**Amen.**

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