

INTRODUCTION

- * 3 weeks ago, Pastor Bob gave us a very comprehensive analysis of the title “I AM” with a focus on how Jesus used that title in John 8 to draw “a line in the sand” regarding His true identity as God.
- * That title, or name for God, that Jesus applies to Himself over and over again throughout the gospel of John, is a vital component of Jesus’ assertion of His deity, which as we mention nearly every week, is one of John’s primary purposes for His gospel account.
- * One way Jesus used that title is through 7 metaphorical I AM statements sprinkled throughout John’s account. They are one of the distinctives of the book. And this morning we will be looking at the 3rd and 4th of these statements where Jesus declared “I AM the door” & “I AM the good shepherd”.
- * Shepherd imagery is found throughout the Bible, and it paints a powerful picture not only of Jesus’s deity but also of His great love and care for His own, both now and in the future.

INSTRUCTION

I. Shepherd Imagery in God’s Word (Is. 40:10-11, Jer. 31:10, Ez. 34:11-31, Ez. 37:24, 1 Peter 2:25, Rev. 7:13-17, Ps. 23)

Sheep Imagery (1 Chr. 21:17; 2 Chr. 18:16; Ps. 78:52, 79:13, 95:7, 100:3, 119:76; Is. 53:6, Mt. 9:36, Jn. 21:16-17)

II. Some Facts About Sheep:

- Sheep require endless attention and meticulous care.
- Sheep are notorious creatures of habit.
- Sheep will eat pretty much anything in their path.

III. The Good Shepherd C_____ & L_____ His Sheep. (Jn. 10:1-6)

IV. The Good Shepherd is the D_____ for the Sheep. The door leads to salvation, pasture and abundant life. (Jn. 10:7-10)

V. The Good Shepherd L_____ D_____ His Life for the Sheep (Jn. 10:11-17)

- He also knows His sheep (including our names, our natures and our needs)
- He brings other sheep into the flock
- He takes up His life again (the resurrection)

NOTE: There is an approximately 2½ month time gap between verses 21 and 22

VI. The Good Shepherd E_____ S_____ His Sheep (Jn. 10:25-29)

- Jesus has a living, loving and lasting relationship with His sheep!

VII. Our Response:

- Jesus has provided a new and living way (Hebrews 10:19-25).
- We are called to follow Jesus by faithfully shepherding others (Acts 20:28-31).

INTROSPECTION

- * Have you entered Jesus' sheepfold by "the door", or are you futilely trying to gain access by some other way?
- * Are you spending time every day reading His word, and listening for His voice, so that you can faithfully follow Him?
- * How are you specifically shepherding others? Are you following Jesus' example as the good shepherd?
- * Is there a need to change the way you think... and therefore act?

INTERACTION

What are some ways you have been or can shepherd others? What changes are needed for you to be more effective?