

## **WE HAVE SEEN HIS GLORY**

### **The Glory of the Shepherd/Mediator**

#### **Introduction**

We were all taught in school, don't mix your metaphors. Here's an example: "Some people sail through life on a bed of roses like a hot knife slicing through butter." Or here's one you might have read recently: "The subject of global warming seems clouded in a sea of research." No, in school don't mix your metaphors. However, Jesus did it and He did it well. Today we are going to learn from Christ as He switches metaphors in mid-stream (just like I did).

**Text: [John 10:7-10 \(ESV\)](#)**

#### **Exposition**

The question of the Pharisees in [John 9:40-41](#) hang in the air like a bomb ready to explode. "Are we also blind?"

The parable of the Good Shepherd is an illustration of the healing of the blind man from birth (John 9). When Jesus opened the blind man's eyes, the man came to recognize that Jesus was the Messiah (9:38). But the Pharisees who claimed to see remained blind to who Jesus really was.

Through this parable ([John 10:1-6](#)) Jesus communicated to these Pharisees that this blind man was also spiritually blind, and Jesus implied that He called him by name, and he recognized my voice – the voice of the true Shepherd. But on the contrary this same man heard their voice; the voice of Thieves and Robbers and he did not follow them.

The Door. But they did not get the point.<sup>1</sup> Ironically that's what parables do. They divide the audience. Some get it and some don't. They didn't get that Jesus was the promised Shepherd "*so Jesus again said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep'*" (John 10:7, ESV). The Shepherd is now The Door. Why does Jesus use the idea of a "door"?

- A door shuts people out.
- A door keeps people in.

But a door is also a means of passage. It is something that you must pass through to get from one side to the other. A door is a means; it's a middle person (so to speak). To be more specific, a door is a mediator. Jesus is a shepherd and a door at the same time. He's the one who leads His sheep and He leads them through Himself. (Are you confused yet?) Jesus is mixing metaphors and it's hard to wrap our head around it, but He is emphasizing what He will soon say to His disciples in John 14: "*I am the*

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<sup>1</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Jn 10:6). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6, ESV). He's the Door to the Father.

When God revealed the Messiah to Jacob, He used a different metaphor: a ladder. [Genesis 28:10-12](#) first mentions "Jacob's Ladder" As Christians we see this dream of Jacob's as highly symbolic, representing the Mediator, Jesus Christ, who came to earth and became that ladder or stairway for us to reconnect the relationship with God that was severed because of sin. This is similar, except Jesus uses the metaphor of a door instead of a ladder. Entrance into God's place is through the Door, Jesus. In other words, Jesus brings you to the Father.

- When you get the Father, you get salvation.
- When you get the Father, you get a wise caring provision.
- When you get the Father, you get abundant life.

All other so-called ways to God will destroy you. There is only one exclusive way to God. *"For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,"* (1 Timothy 2:5, ESV). Or as Peter said, *"And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."* (Acts 4:12, ESV)

Now there are not only false shepherds, there are false doors. The one thing in common with both false shepherds and false doors is they are both "thieves and robbers". The false door is bent on stealing, killing and destroying. Other so-called messiahs; other so-called mediators; other so-called "ways" to God are "thieves and robbers."<sup>2</sup> If you enter the wrong gate you will end up in destruction. Jesus said,

*"Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few."* (Matthew 7:13–14, ESV)

Abundant Life. We are told that the mediation of Christ, instead of bringing burdens, brings abundant life. What is that "abundant life?" Today's false teachers will tell you that abundant life includes good health, financial wealth, happiness and success in your vocation. False teachers will tell you that abundant life means great relationships, ease and triumph at every turn. Jesus says that abundant life is God. It's not about getting stuff, it's about getting God.

If the blind man had received his sight and gone to Hell, what's the point. Better than that he received spiritual sight, believed in the Door and got God – eternal life.

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<sup>2</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Jn 10:8). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

## Christ, The Mediator

The point of this passage is to honor the Mediator between God and man.

- It is because of the great Mediator that we can stand before God clothed in the righteousness of Christ Himself. (2 Corinthians 5:21).
- It is because of the great Mediator that our sin was exchanged for His righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21).
- It is because of the great Mediator that “those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance” (Hebrews 9:15).
- It is because of the ongoing work of this great Mediator that we have an Advocate with the Father (1 John 2:1). Every moment of the day Jesus represents those who have placed their trust in Him before God’s throne of *grace*. He *mediates* for us, much as a defense attorney mediates for his client, telling the judge, “Your honor, my client’s debt is paid in full.”
- It is because of the great Mediator that we can say, “If God is for us, who can be against us?”<sup>3</sup>
- It is because of the great Mediator that we can assert, “Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies.”<sup>4</sup>
- It is because of the great Mediator that we rest in the truth, “Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.”<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Ro 8:31). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

<sup>4</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Ro 8:33). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

<sup>5</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Ro 8:34). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.