

1Jesus said:

I tell you for certain that only thieves and robbers climb over the fence instead of going in through the gate to the sheep pen. **2-3**But the gatekeeper opens the gate for the shepherd, and he goes in through it. The sheep know their shepherd's voice. He calls each of them by name and leads them out.

4When he has led out all of his sheep, he walks in front of them, and they follow, because they know his voice. **5**The sheep will not follow strangers. They don't recognize a stranger's voice, and they run away.

6Jesus told the people this story. But they did not understand what he was talking about.

7Jesus said:

I tell you for certain that I am the gate for the sheep. **8**Everyone who came before me was a thief or a robber, and the sheep did not listen to any of them. **9**I am the gate. All who come in through me will be saved. Through me they will come and go and find pasture.

10A thief comes only to rob, kill, and destroy. I came so that everyone would have life, and have it in its fullest. **11** I am the good shepherd, and the good shepherd gives up his life for his sheep. **12**Hired workers are not like the shepherd. They don't own the sheep, and when they see a wolf coming, they run off and leave the sheep. Then the wolf attacks and scatters the flock. **13**Hired workers run away because they don't care about the sheep.

14I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep, and they know me. **15**Just as the Father knows me, I know the Father, and I give up my life for my sheep. **16**I have other sheep that are not in this sheep pen. I must bring them together too, when they hear my voice. Then there will be one flock of sheep and one shepherd.

17The Father loves me, because I give up my life, so that I may receive it back again. **18**No one takes my life from me. I give it up willingly! I have the power to give it up and the power to receive it back again, just as my Father commanded me to do.

19The people took sides because of what Jesus had told them. **20**Many of them said, "He has a demon in him! He is crazy! Why listen to him?"

21But others said, "How could anyone with a demon in him say these things? No one like that could give sight to a blind person!"

22That winter, Jesus was in Jerusalem for the Temple Festival. **23**One day he was walking in that part of the temple known as Solomon's Porch, **24**and the people gathered all around him. They said, "How long are you going to keep us guessing? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly!" **25**Jesus answered:

I have told you, and you refused to believe me. The things I do by my Father's authority show who I am.

26But since you are not my sheep, you don't believe me.

27My sheep know my voice, and I know them. They follow me, 28and I give them eternal life, so that they will never be lost. No one can snatch them out of my hand.

29My Father gave them to me, and he is greater than all others. No one can snatch them from his hands, 30and I am one with the Father.

(John 10:1-30)