

WHAT IT MEANS TO FOLLOW JESUS

THERE ARE ONLY TWO PATHS IN LIFE –THE PATH OF LIFE UPON WHICH WE FOLLOW JESUS AND THE PATH OF DEATH UPON WHICH WE FOLLOW ANYONE ELSE AND THAT ENDS IN DESTRUCTION



1. Jesus is the legitimate shepherd of the sheep because he entered the sheepfold by the door, 10:1-3.

- (John 10:1-2 ESV) Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. 2 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

A. The door is that which approves and facilitates entrance to the sheepfold based on and in accordance with OT law and prophecy.

B. The door is the portal through which the true Shepherd of the sheep passes through and is then authenticated as the Christ, the Son of God.

A.W. Pink ... The simple meaning of this is, that Christ presented Himself to Israel in a lawful manner, that is, in strict accord with the Holy Scriptures. "He submitted Himself to all the conditions established by Him who built the house. Christ answered to all that was written of the Messiah, and took the path of God's will in presenting Himself to the people" (Mr. Darby). He had been born of a virgin, of the covenant people, of the Judaic stock, in the royal city—Bethlehem. He had conformed to everything which God required of an Israelite. He had been "born under the law" (Gal. 4:4). He was circumcised the eighth day (Luke 2:21), and subsequently, at the purification of His mother, He was presented to God in the Temple (Luke 2:22). [Pink, A. W. *Exposition of the Gospel of John* (p. 511). Bible Truth Depot.]

C. So Jesus entered by the door as the one who came to fulfill (by living in conformity to) the OT law, the prophets and the Father.

If Jesus was that careful to pay close attention to and submit to the teaching of Scripture, then what about the person who refuses to do the same?

- (Hebrews 2:1 ESV) Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.

D. Jesus took great care to demonstrate the legitimacy of his testimony as the Messiah, the Son of God.

Legitimate – conforming to the law or to rules.

E. Jesus provided very powerful testimony as to his legitimacy as the Shepherd of the sheep (see v.2).

i. He came to do the Father's will.

- (John 6:38 ESV) For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.

- (John 5:30 ESV) I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me.

- (John 4:34 ESV) Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.

ii. He came to speak the Father's words.

- (John 12:49 ESV) For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak.

- (John 8:28 ESV) So Jesus said to them, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me.

iii. He came to fulfill the law and the prophets.

- (Matthew 5:17 ESV) Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

- (Luke 24:44 ESV) Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."

- (Luke 24:27 ESV) And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

- (John 1:45a ESV) Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth.

F. John the Baptist confirmed that Jesus was the one sent from God according to the Scriptures.

- (John 1:14-15 ESV) And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'")

- (John 1:23 ESV) He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

- (John 1:29 ESV) The next day he saw

Jesus coming toward him, and said, **"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"**

- (John 1:34 ESV) **And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.**

G. Scripture very powerfully and precisely proves Jesus' legitimate testimony as the Messiah, the Son of God.

Jesus fulfilled at least 300 OT prophecies—Here is one example.

- (Isaiah 7:14 ESV) Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. **Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.**
- (Matthew 1:21–23 ESV) "She will bear a son, **and you shall call his name Jesus**, for he will save his people from their sins." 22 **All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:** 23 **"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,** and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

H. The gatekeeper opens the sheepfold only to the Shepherd of the sheep—Jesus Messiah, 10:3.

- (John 10:3 ESV) **To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.**

I. The gatekeeper seems to be the prophetic witness of Scripture which directs the course of earth history toward God's sovereign purpose in salvation.

Some believe the gatekeeper to be God the Father or the Holy Spirit or possibly John the Baptist.

J. The sheep of God hear the voice of the one to whom the gatekeeper opens the door as he calls them by name and leads them out.

2. Jesus, the legitimate shepherd of the sheep, goes before his sheep, 10:4-5.

- (John 10:4–5 ESV) When he has brought out all his own, **he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.** 5 **A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him,** for they **do not know the voice of strangers.**
- A. Jesus' sheep follow him because they know his voice.
- B. Jesus' sheep will not follow a stranger—an illegitimate shepherd who is of another flock—but will flee from him.
- C. Jesus' sheep run from the stranger because they do

not know the voice of a stranger.

Stranger ... ἀλλότριος [allotrios] ... belonging to another; a person who does not belong in the environment in which they are found.

D. A sheep who does not flee from the voice of a stranger belongs to the flock of the stranger.

E. Practical Relevance: A person identifies the flock to which he belongs by whom he listens to and follows.

F. Sheep who listen to a wolf-shepherd who preaches a false gospel identify themselves as those who are following the thief—aka the devil.

3. Jesus is the door—the Scripture fulfilling, prophesied Messiah of the OT—through which a person enters and is saved, 10:6-9.

- (John 10:6–9 ESV) This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. 7 So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **I am the door of the sheep.** 8 **All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them.** 9 **I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved** and will go in and out and find pasture."

A. Jesus is the door through which sheep are called out of Judaism and are saved.

B. All who came before him—referring to the evil shepherds of Israel—are thieves and robbers and Jesus' sheep do not listen to them.

C. Sheep who enter through Jesus are saved.

4. Jesus points out the major distinction between himself and the thief, 10:10-13.

- (John 10:10–13 ESV) **The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.** 11 **I am the good shepherd.** The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 **He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them.** 13 He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.
- A. The major distinction is this — follow the thief and your life ends in destruction; follow Jesus and have abundant life.

- B. Jesus is also distinct from the thief in that he does not kill his sheep but lays down his life for them.
- C. Jesus is not a hired hand who sees the wolf coming and runs away leaving the sheep to be taken and scattered by the wolf.
- D. The hired hand will not lay down his life for the sheep because he cares nothing for them.
- E. A pastor who will not risk his life/status/position in fighting off the wolves is no true shepherd of the flock of God.

- (Acts 20:28–30 ESV) **Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock**, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, **to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood**. 29 I know that after my departure **fierce wolves will come in among you**, not sparing the flock; 30 **and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things**, to draw away the disciples after them.

CONCLUSION: THE ABSOLUTE NECESSITY OF ENTERING THROUGH THE NARROW DOOR AND THE NARROW GATE ...

1. **We must strive to enter through the narrow door or be cast out where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, Luke 13:22-28.**

- (Luke 13:23–28 ESV) And someone said to him, “Lord, will those who are saved be **few**?” And he said to them, 24 **“Strive to enter through the narrow door**. For **many**, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. 25 When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, open to us,’ then he will answer you, **‘I do not know where you come from.’** 26 **Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.’** 27 But he will say, **‘I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!’** 28 **In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth**, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God **but you yourselves cast out.**”

- A. The many who try to enter the kingdom of God in a way other than the narrow door will be left outside when the master shuts the door.
- B. They are all deceived—believing that they knew Jesus and were in the kingdom of God.
- C. They had relied on the outward appearance of a relationship with him but Jesus completely distances himself from them.
- D. Their relationship with him was superficial—they had been in his presence and had heard him teaching but it meant nothing in regard to their eternal destiny.

2. **We must obey Jesus’ command to enter through the narrow gate or our lives will end in destruction, Matthew 7:13-14.**

- (Matthew 7:13–14 ESV) **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**. 14 For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are **few**.

3. **False prophets are wolves dressed as shepherds.**

- (Matthew 7:15 ESV) Beware of false prophets, **who come to you in sheep’s clothing** but inwardly are ravenous wolves.

4. **Jesus warns the deceived.**

- (Matthew 7:21–23 ESV) **Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven**. 22 **On that day many** will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ 23 **And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’**

- A. They believed in an illegitimate Lord who was not the Shepherd of the sheep, the Christ, the Son of God.
- B. On the day of judgment they will recount the many religious things they had done in Jesus’ name but to no avail—they had not done the will of his Father.
- C. Jesus will declare that he never knew them and will order them from his presence.