

There is Only One Way

11/02/25

The phrase “the only way” expresses that there is a single method, path, or solution to achieve a desired outcome (AI). In 1970, a movie came out with the “The Only Way” as the title. It was a true story about how people of Denmark helped Jewish people escape from the grip of the Nazi Regime. They knew it was the only thing they could do. To look the other way was not an option to them. A person I worked with some years ago smoked cigarettes. He was told the only way his breathing was going to get better was to stop smoking. He did and his breathing got better. It was the only way for him to have better breathing. I went to Isle Royale National Park many years ago. It’s an island in Lake Superior and I wanted to know the best way to get to the island. I found out that the only way at that time was through boat. If I remember correctly, I had to take a six-hour boat ride to get to the island. It was the only way for me to reach the island. There was no bridge for vehicles or landing areas for planes. As we continue with the Gospel of John, we find that John added into his letter about “the only way” to God. This is very important because in the world we are living in, we are hearing that there are different roads you can go on to have a relationship with God. John tells us there is only one way.

Let’s read what John has to say in John 10: 1-7, “**10** “Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.⁷ Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. (NIV - www.biblegateway.com)

Last week, we had looked into the true story of Jesus healing a blind man that was born blind. It was a true miracle from the Son of God. We talked about how the people took the once blind man to see the Pharisees because Jesus had healed this man on the Sabbath. So, the Pharisees questioned the man and they didn't like the answers they got. The once blind man stood up against the Pharisees and defended Jesus. After the Pharisees threw the man out of the synagogue, they followed him in the hopes that he finds Jesus. Jesus found the once blind man and reveals Himself to the man and he believes in Jesus and worships Jesus as the Son of God. The Pharisees are there and we now come to the Scripture we just read. After making the once blind man physically and spiritually well, now Jesus turns to the Pharisees. Now, Jesus calls the Pharisees blind before the Scripture we read and the Pharisees take offense to this. Jesus uses a life example that would give the Pharisees a better understanding of why they were blind. The Pharisees enforced the Jewish laws that Israel had to follow. In fact, they added many other laws onto the laws that God had given which was against God's wishes. In Deuteronomy 4: 2, God gives this command to Israel, "Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the Lord your God that I give you. (NIV)" Before Israel took over the Promise Land, God gave this command. When the Pharisees came on scene after Israel came back from their captivity because of disobeying God, they added all these extra laws trying to keep the people from drifting away from God like they did in the Old Testament. They thought that adding more human laws onto God's laws would help the people to stay right with God. They became so focus on these laws that they couldn't see all the prophecies from the prophets in the Old Testament that there would come a time where something better was coming. Isaiah 61: 1-3 in the Old Testament makes this prophecy about Jesus, "The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the prisoners,^[a]

² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,
³ and provide for those who grieve in Zion—
to bestow on them a crown of beauty
instead of ashes,
the oil of joy
instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise
instead of a spirit of despair.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the LORD
for the display of his splendor. (NIV- www.biblegatewaay.com)

The Pharisees, who studied the Old Testament, were blind to this Scripture and others about Jesus. They were so caught up in the law that they were blind to the fact Jesus was the fulfillment of Isaiah and the healing of the blind man was the perfect example of this. So, Jesus uses the story about shepherds and sheep because this is what the Pharisees knew well. They were trying to have a right relationship with God through the law. So, Jesus knew the Pharisees knew all about sheep since they were used as sacrifices in the Temple at Jerusalem. Jesus was trying to explain that a new way had arrived and He was now the fulfillment of the law and the sheep and shepherd needed to be looked upon differently.

For us to get a better picture of what Jesus is saying, we need to read more of John, so let's read John 10: 8-15, "⁸ All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. ⁹ I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved.^[a] They will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. ¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴ "I am the good

shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. (NIV – www.biblegateway.com)

Jesus talks about sheep, which represents the common people – us. Then, Jesus makes reference to a gate and the shepherd. Now, Jesus tells us in verse 7 and 9 that He is the gate for the sheep to enter. However, Jesus also states in verse 11 that He is also the shepherd that takes care of the shepherd. Jesus makes reference in verse 15 that the shepherd will lay down His life for the sheep and Jesus is making reference to His death on the cross. So, this is very important that we understand Jesus has two jobs in this story. First, He is the Shepherd of the sheep. In the Old Testament, shepherd would be used at times to describe God. Psalm 23 states, “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want (NIV)”. Isaiah 40: 11 claims this, “He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; He gently leads those that have young (NIV)”. The last evidence we’ll look at is from Ezekiel 34: 7-12, ⁷ “Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: ⁸ As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, because my flock lacks a shepherd and so has been plundered and has become food for all the wild animals, and because my shepherds did not search for my flock but cared for themselves rather than for my flock, ⁹ therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: ¹⁰ This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am against the shepherds and will hold them accountable for my flock. I will remove them from tending the flock so that the shepherds can no longer feed themselves. I will rescue my flock from their mouths, and it will no longer be food for them. ¹¹ “For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. ¹² As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. (NIV-www.biblegateway.com)”

God was looked upon as the one true Good shepherd. The priests and other leaders were also called shepherds as they were to lead the people to God. King David in Psalm 23 saw God as his true Shepherd. So, now Jesus states that He is the Shepherd. Let’s remember that John wrote this Gospel to make sure everyone understood that Jesus is the Son of God. The only way that Jesus could now replace God as the true Shepherd is if He was the Son of God. I hope this makes

sense to you. The Pharisees knew Scripture talked about God being the true Shepherd and Jesus is trying to get them to understand He is the fulfillment of the prophecy. So, to put this all together, Jesus is our true shepherd. We look to Him as our main focus. We have pastors and teachers who help the true Shepherd to lead His flock, but Jesus is the main Shepherd.

Then, Jesus tells us that He is the gate as well. Since Jesus is the Main Shepherd, He operates the only gate that leads to the Father. Jesus tells us in verse 9, "I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved." The only way to God is through His Son Jesus Christ. If we say that Hinduism, Buddhism, or another type of religion can lead someone to God without going through Jesus, then we have dishonored the cross and have called Jesus a liar. These religions are doing what the Pharisees were doing, trying to be right with God without Jesus and that will not work. I've heard a Lutheran professor and she was the dean of the seminary as well teach that many religions lead to God. In fact, she made it a point to travel to other countries where these religions are practiced. She has cheapened the cross and, in a sense, has called Jesus a liar. If there was another way to God, Jesus would have said so, but He did not. Jesus tells us in verse 14, "I am the good shepherd, I know my sheep and my sheep know me – just as the Father knows me and I know the Father – and I lay down my life for the sheep. (NIV)" Jesus is the only true way to God.

It only gets better. John continues this story in John 10: 16-18 where we read this, "¹⁶I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father." (NIV- www.biblegateway.com)

The first sheep Jesus was talking about was the Jews. This other sheep that are not of that pen will also be able to go to the gate and enter in to the Father. Those sheep are the Gentiles which includes us. Jesus is giving some prophecy here about what would happen after the Easter event and Pentecost. Anybody on this

earth will have the chance to have a relationship with the Father, but it can only happen through Jesus Christ. God, our Father has done it this way because of verses 17 and 18, “¹⁷ The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father. (NIV)” This is why any teaching that says there is another way to God is false teaching. There is no one past, present, or future can do what Jesus did on the cross. It is the only way to Jesus is through the cross. We must die to ourselves, ask forgiveness for our sins, and allow Jesus into our heart and mind so we can have that loving relationship with God and Jesus through the Holy Spirit. Have you entered the gate or have you allowed yourself to stand outside the gate because you love this world and yourself too much? Don’t wait too long. You only have limited time to make the choice for Jesus. I’ll end with this:

³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.

Does this describe you?

NIV Study Bible. Zondervan: Grand Rapids: 2002