

E/ I am the Shepherd & Gate for the sheep – John 10

- **John 10v1-10 – “I am the Gate” to allow entry**
 - Jesus quickly moves between using different symbols for his role – a shepherd, a watchman and a gate. What do you think each of these symbolises about Jesus?
 - Jesus compares himself with a robber. What does a robber do? Who is the principle robber?
 - What does Jesus offer? What do you think Jesus means by “life to the full”?
- **John 10v11-21 – “I am the Good Shepherd” who lays down his life**
 - Jesus now focuses on his role as a Shepherd.
 - Why is the shepherd better than a hired hand?
 - What is the relationship between sheep and their shepherd in 1st century Palestine? It is worth noting that whereas in modern western sheep farms, the sheep roam the hills and are herded by dogs, at the time, the shepherd led the way and the sheep followed.
 - What do you think Jesus meant by “other sheep who are not of this pen”? What is going to happen to them? This is fulfilled in the church of Acts and the church since.
 - What does Jesus say about his sacrifice for the sheep?
- **John 10v22-42 – My sheep listen to my voice: “I and the Father are one”**
 - The Feast of Dedication is not in the Old Testament. It was a commemoration of the rededication of the Temple in 165BC after the Roman Emperor had profaned it. It was the most recent great deliverance of the Jews, and the Jews were looking forward to the great deliverance from Rome by the Christ.
 - Against this celebration and expectation, what does Jesus say he offers his sheep? V27-29
 - The Jews clearly take what Jesus says to be a claim to be God (v30-33), and Jesus does not deny it, but merely expands on it. Note that when Jesus says “I and the Father are one” the “one” is neuter in Greek (rather than masculine or feminine): this means that he is not saying that they are one person, but that they are of one type or substance. In other words, he and the Father are both God. As the creed puts it “God in three persons”. Isn’t this amazing and wonderful that God should become human!
 - In verse 41-42, Jesus is reaping some of the harvest sown by John the Baptist. Keep sowing spiritual seeds – you never know who might harvest them!