John # 159 "VIP Access To The Gate" John 10

In John chapter 9, we saw that adversities in life don't always happen to man to permanently harm him.

THE JOB DESCRIPTION OF A WORTHY SHEPHERD CENTERED AROUND MAKING THE SHEEP'S LIFE AS RELAXED AS POSSIBLE WHICH MEANT ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING IN HIS POWER UP TO AND INCLUDING GIVING HIS OWN LIFE FOR THE SHEEP IF NECESSARY!

God's unyielding edict of grace was not being carried out by the false shepherds.

OUR LORD'S VERY POWERFUL WORDS IN JOHN 10 SERVE A DUAL PURPOSE: 1. TO ILLUSTRATE HIS GENUINE AUTHORITY AND HIS COMPASSION AS "THE GOOD SHEPHERD" AND "THE GATE"

2. AS AN INDICTMENT OF THE VICIOUS TOTALITARIAN PHARISEES.

So, Jesus is now standing at the sheepfold and a crowd came with Him; a crowd which included the formerly blind man whose conversion will be explained by Jesus' words, "I am the Gate" and "I am the Good Shepherd."

THERE'LL ALSO BE MANY RELIGIOUS PEOPLE THERE ALONG WITH JESUS' DISCIPLES AND FORTUNATELY FOR ALL, JESUS IS GOING TO EXPLAIN IT ALL TO THEM AND IN JOHN 10:1-6, HE OFFERS AN ALLEGORY ON THE WAY INTO THE SHEEPFOLD, THE WAY OUT AND THE TWO TYPES OF SHEPHERDS, GOOD AND BAD, TRUE AND FALSE, SELFLESS AND SELFISH.

The Lord Jesus Christ's life ambition was to give His very life for us and to give it to us and further to give His life more abundantly than we could ever dream or ask for!

THERE ARE THREE WAYS IN WHICH MANKIND DIES;

- 1. By way of God's sovereign choice of the time, manner and place of one's death.
- 2. Through the superimposition of man's will over God's indicating an allowance of God's permissive will through an act of suicide (quick and sudden or long and protracted by poor lifestyle choices).
- 3. This one is unique as it only happened once and could only happen once; The Lord Jesus Christ voluntarily superimposed His will simultaneous to God the Father's sovereign expression of His will as to the choice of Jesus' time, place and manner of His spiritual and physical deaths.

We may think we are worthless sheep at times but we were bought out of the slave market by the Good Shepherd's blood because He loved His Father and He loved us.

MUCH LIKE DAVID AND WAY BEYOND; THE GOOD SHEPHERD WILL DELIVER

US FROM THE LION, THE BEAR AND EVEN THE DEVIL AND BRING US BACK <u>VICTORIOUS</u> TO THE SHEEPFOLD!

THE NARROW GATE OF PROPHESY:

- 1. 30 pieces of silver 2. Pierced hands, feet and side
- 3. Not a bone would be broken
- 4. His grave would be assigned with robbers
- 5. He'd be buried by a rich man
- 6. Of the House of David 7. Born in Bethlehem
- 8. Born at the right time 9. Born in the right place
- 10. Born to the right parents

THESE 10 ALONG WITH MANY OTHER PROPHESIES FULFILLED THE NARROW DOORWAY OF PROPHESY SO ONLY ONE COULD POSSIBLY FIT THROUGH AND THAT'S NONE OTHER THAN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF IN ALL HIS GLORY!

AND THE GATE THE GOOD SHEPHERD OFFERS TO US:

- 1. His rest from our burdens
- 2. His guidance 3. His care 4. His provision
- 5. His protection 6. His union with His Father
- 7. His promise that we will become His bride
- 8. The ability to hear and know Him now
- 9. His life for and in us 10. His example to follow

GOD CALLS US TO PURSUE A BETTER HOPE THROUGH HIM AND NOT SIMPLY A BETTER LIFE HERE AND NOW!

FROM THE GOOD SHEPHERD TO HIS SHEEP, HE OFFERS:

- 1. A Loving Relationship; He died for His sheep.
- 2. A Living Relationship; He intimately cares for and protects His sheep from the wolves.
- 3. A LASTING RELATIONSHIP; ONE THAT TRANSCENDS THE TRIALS OF THIS WORLD UP TO AND INCLUDING OUR FINAL WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH!

A "Good Shepherd" does not abuse His sheep.

The religious crowd will not be allowed to go through the gate.

Religion is outside of God's plan.

Religion is the way Satan tries to organize the world.

THERE IS NO PLACE IN THE PLAN OF GOD FOR SATANICALLY MOTIVATED RELIGION.

When the Lord Jesus, the Good Shepherd comes in, He's alone but when He leaves, He leaves with the sheep following Him.

The religious have no place in the plan of God.

THE GATEKEEPER HERE IS THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE VIRGIN CONCEPTION WHICH TOOK PLACE IN THE VIRGIN MARY'S WOMB; MATTHEW 1:20; LUKE 1:35.

The Good Shepherd always leads His sheep to green pastures.