

## **"Jesus Is The Door To Much More!"**

"Made For More" Series- Part 01

*Use the next few minutes to connect and fellowship with other members of the group by discussing the following:* Tell us about a recent experience that you would describe as fulfilling an item on your "bucket list". How did it make you feel?

*Let's get on the same page -*

In Valladolid, Spain, where Christopher Columbus died in 1506, stands a monument commemorating the great discoverer. Perhaps the most interesting feature of the memorial is a statue of a lion destroying one of the Latin words that had been part of Spain's motto for centuries. Before Columbus made his voyages, the Spaniards thought they had reached the outer limits of earth. Thus their motto was "Ne Plus Ultra," which means "No More Beyond."



The word being torn away by the lion is "Ne" or "no," making it read "Plus Ultra." Columbus had proven that there was indeed "more beyond" beyond the Straits of Gibraltar after he set sail for the new world.

I love the message that the sculptor inscribed artfully in stone for it reminds me that Jesus, the Lion of Judah, has also destroyed that which once laid claim to our lives and declared *"There is no more beyond!"* Today in our text, Jesus proclaims another of the seven *"I Am"* statements in John's gospel. He is the Good Shepherd and the promise of the abundant life (Plus Ultra)!

### **Book: John 10:1-11**

John 10:1 "I tell you the truth, anyone who sneaks over the wall of a sheepfold, rather than going through the gate, must surely be a thief and a robber!

John 10:2 But the one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.

John 10:3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep recognize his voice and come to him. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

John 10:4 After he has gathered his own flock, he walks ahead of them, and they follow him because they know his voice.

John 10:5 They won't follow a stranger; they will run from him because they don't know his voice."

John 10:6 Those who heard Jesus use this illustration didn't understand what He meant,

John 10:7 so He explained it to them: "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep.

John 10:8 All who came before Me were thieves and robbers. But the true sheep did not listen to them.

John 10:9 Yes, I am the gate. Those who come in through Me will be saved. They will come and go freely and will find good pastures.

John 10:10 The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

John 10:11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices His life for the sheep.

### **Let's get into the Word:**

It can be said that people desire and pursue those things in life that bring perceived happiness. For a moment discuss what might be some differences in the following four pursuits. How would you define them and what scriptures come to mind as you define each one?

1. The good life:
2. A life of prosperity:
3. Living the dream:
4. The abundant life:

***Using the above text, let's define what Jesus would call the abundant life.***

In New Testament days, why would a thief or robber go “over the wall” instead of through the gate?

Who is Jesus referring to in verse 8a? Discuss how Matthew 23:13 might apply to those to whom Jesus is speaking.

In verse 7-9, Jesus states that He is the gate to salvation. What are the implications when Jesus calls Himself a gate or door? Are there other gates to salvation? What do you say to the person who says that Jesus is one of the gates, much like the gates provided by the Buddhists or Hindus?

Why must the abundant life begin with coming into the “fold” or “sheep pen” of salvation?

In John 10:9, Jesus implies that as The Gate, we are both coming and going. For what reasons would the sheep leave the fold and how does that reasoning apply to you and I?

When it comes to the following, how does Jesus provide the “*abundant life*”?

- I am a condemned sinner
- I need protection from those who seek to destroy me
- I am searching for truth, meaning, and purpose
- I need provision to sustain my life
- I want more in life than what I am experiencing now

### **Getting personal (with self)!**

There have been times when you may have felt hopeless (no more beyond) in your circumstances. How did victory or hope eventually come for you?

Who do you know that you feel is missing out on the abundant life? How might you encourage them this week to look to the Good Shepherd for guidance?

What area of your life could use some “plus ultra”....reaching for what God has for you instead of living in mediocrity and helplessness? Be bold and share it with a trusted friend and pray about it together.