



John 8:59 (NIV)

⁵⁹ *At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.*

Context (n): the set of circumstances or facts that surround a particular event, situation, etc.

Without context, what can happen?

1. It can lead to _____.
2. It can cause the _____ of the principles.
3. It can lead to the _____ of others.

Jesus refers to himself as the Gate. Gates do two things:

1. They _____ things in.
2. They let people _____.

What prevents us from allowing Christ into our lives?

1. Fear

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

2 Timothy 1:7 (KJV)

2. Control

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and **do not lean on your own understanding.** In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.*

Proverbs 3:5–6 (ESV)

Jesus calls us to an eternal life of freedom and joy

*I came so they can have real and eternal life, **more and better life than they ever dreamed of.***

John 10:10b (MSG)

John 10:1–6 (CEV)

Jesus said:

I tell you for certain that only thieves and robbers climb over the fence instead of going in through the gate to the sheep pen.²⁻³ But the gatekeeper opens the gate for the shepherd, and he goes in through it. The sheep know their shepherd's voice. He calls each of them by name and leads them out.

⁴ *When he has led out all of his sheep, he walks in front of them, and they follow, because they know his voice.* ⁵ *The sheep will not follow strangers. They don't recognize a stranger's voice, and they run away.*

⁶ *Jesus told the people this story. **But they did not understand what he was talking about.***

What Does a Shepherd Do?

- **He gives up his _____ for them.**
...just as my Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. John 10:15 (TLB)
- **He _____ them.**
...He gathers them like lambs in his arms and carries them close to him... Isaiah 40:11 (EXB)
- **He _____ them.**
I have other sheep too. They are not in this flock here. I must lead them also. They will listen to my voice. In the future there will be one flock and one shepherd. John 10:16 (ERV)

SO WHAT?

- Listen – through others, through His word, through prayer
- Follow – “What does it mean to be under the enfolding control of His presence? It means he has become the paramount and preeminent person in my daily experience. He occupies a place of greater priority in my thoughts, emotions, and decisions than any earthly companion.” –Phillip Keller

This week, I will ask God for the strength, courage and patience to give up

that is preventing me from hearing him and following him.