



Ask, Father James:

"I am the gate for the sheep."

The Gospel text for this Sunday (John 10:1-11) contains two descriptions of Jesus:

1. "I am the gate for the sheep" (vs 7) and
2. "I am the good shepherd." (Vs. 11).

These two roles are related in that they both lead the sheep to life. The good shepherd gate leads the sheep through the gate of green pasture - salvation. A gate is not only a means for access but also of security. Jesus the good shepherd opens the gate for us to come to safety.

The good shepherd knows that the sheep live in precarious times and are being attacked by wolves ravenously. Remember what Jesus said in Matthew 10:16: "you are like sheep among wolves." Thus, Jesus said that the good shepherd welcomes the sheep into the pen through the gate which can then when closed shuts out the flock from any predators.

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