

# John 10:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

## Analysis

Jesus begins His Good Shepherd discourse by contrasting true and false shepherds. The true shepherd enters by the door; thieves and robbers climb in elsewhere. This establishes authority's source - legitimate shepherds are recognized and authorized, while false teachers use deception to access sheep. Reformed emphasis on proper ordination and calling finds support here.

## Historical Context

Ancient sheepfolds had one guarded entrance. Shepherds entered openly through the door while thieves climbed walls secretly. The imagery was familiar to Jesus' agricultural audience.

## Related Passages

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

1. How can you recognize legitimate spiritual authority versus false teachers?

2. What characterizes those who enter through proper means versus those who sneak in?
3. How does your church ensure proper authorization for spiritual leadership?

## Interlinear Text

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ἀμὴν	ἀμὴν	λέγω	ὑμῖν	ό	μὴ	εἰσερχόμενος	διὰ	τῆς
Verily	Verily	I say	unto you	G3588	not	He that entereth	by	G3588
G281	G281	G3004	G5213		G3361	G1525	G1223	
θύρας	εἰς	τὴν	αὐλὴν	τῶν	προβάτων	ἀλλὰ	ἀναβαίνων	
the door	into	G3588	G833	G3588	the sheepfold	but	climbeth up	
G2374	G1519				G4263	G235	G305	
ἀλλαχόθεν	ἐκεῖνος	κλέπτης	ἐστὶν	καὶ	ληστής·			
some other way	the same	a thief	is	and	a robber			
G237	G1565	G2812	G2076	G2532	G3027			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Matthew 7:15** (Parallel theme): Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

**Romans 16:18** (Parallel theme): For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.

**1 John 4:1** (Parallel theme): Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

**Hebrews 5:4** (Parallel theme): And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron.

**Jeremiah 23:32** (Parallel theme): Behold, I am against them that prophesy false dreams, saith the LORD, and do tell them, and cause my people to err by their lies, and by their lightness; yet I sent them not, nor commanded them: therefore they shall not profit this people at all, saith the LORD.

**2 Peter 2:3** (Parallel theme): And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

**2 Peter 2:1** (Parallel theme): But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

**1 Peter 1:10** (Parallel theme): Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:

**Romans 10:15** (Parallel theme): And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

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