



“I Am The Door” ~ September 30, 2018

OPEN

What is the most incredible door that you have seen? Did you walk through it?

What made it so special or interesting to you?

Let's consider Jesus' claim, “I am the door of the sheep” found in John 10:1-10.

As the door of the sheep Jesus provides – for all who believe Him – the entrance into a flourishing life!

DIG

What does a “flourishing life” look like, in your opinion?

What was the reason that Jesus stressed that He was “truly, truly” the door of the sheep? Compare John 10:1 with John 9:40-41.

In what ways were the Pharisees like blind guides to the people of God?

Jesus identified those who do not enter by the door of the pen as thieves and robbers. Who are the “thieves and robbers” in terms of the spiritual leaders of our day?

Consider the historical background to the image of Jesus as the door of the sheep. In verses 2-5 Jesus used the image of shepherding practices of the 1st Century. Pens were made of rough stone or mud bricks - or occasionally a cave. But there was only one door and the shepherd would fill that space during the night. Several flocks could be sheltered there. In the morning, each shepherd used his own unique call to lead out his flock to pasture.

In verses 6-10 Jesus explained the image of the door of the sheep, offering the possibility of a flourishing life to His followers.

Consider what these verses offer to followers of Jesus:

1. *Living with confidence because of divine mercy and grace* - vv. 7-8
2. *Living with certainty because of divine protection and guidance* - v. 9
3. *Living with contentment because of divine energy and enjoyment* - v. 10

Major Ian Thomas in *The Saving Life Of Christ* (Zondervan, 1961) writes,

You will have become *totally dependent* upon the life of Christ within you, and never before will you have been so *independent*, so *emancipated* from the pressure of your circumstances, so *released* at last from that self-distrust which has made you at one moment an arrogant, loud-mouthed braggart, and the next moment the victim of your own self-pity....You will be free from the tyranny of a defeated enemy within. You will become more than conqueror, for even death itself is conquered by His life....You will be restored to your true humanity – to be the human vehicle of the divine life. Your faith will open the windows of heaven, for God will move in to do the impossible... (16)

If Jesus is the door of the sheep, what is the Church in light of this picture? Consider that the Church is called to be “living stones”.

Read I Peter 2:5-9. What stands out to you about the image of stones that are living?

Christians are designed to give glory and praise to God. Read Ephesians 1:3-14. In what ways does Paul point to the praise-design for believers? Watch especially for the phrase “to the praise of His glory”.

How does Romans 15:5-6 emphasize the uniting of believers in praise to God?

What will happen if people do not praise God? Look at Luke 19:40 in which Jesus was quoting from Habakkuk 2:11.

A flourishing life is nothing if it is not one of ***rejoicing!*** In what way would you express the paradox of “living stones”?

Stable yet Growing Fixed yet Alive _____ yet _____

In his book ***Fearfully And Wonderfully Made*** (Zondervan, 1980) Dr. Paul Brand writes about this same twin reality of stability yet growth in another common structure – the human skeleton.

The real value of a skeleton only comes to light when it supports a growing organism....Bone is hard, but it is alive. If the bones of faith do not continue to grow, they will soon become dead skeletons. (93,95)

REFLECT

So...what does a flourishing life look like? It is one that is lost in Jesus – utterly absorbed in the amazing grace of God in Christ. “The most loving thing you can do for those around you is to slow down to be with Jesus. Why? If we skimp on our inner work, our outer work will suffer as well.” ~ Peter Scazzero (***Twitter*** 9/25/18)

For some further reflection read [“I Am The Door”](#) by Maxie Dunnam