

This is Jesus, Door of the Sheep

John 10 March 15, 2020 Bob Szoke

Illustration: Doppelganger. This is the term that is used to describe someone who looks just like someone else, but the two are not related. Rumor has it that there is someone out there who looks exactly like you, and in most cases could pass as a duplicate of you. The odds are 1 in 135 that there is someone out there who looks like you. The idea of the doppelganger comes from the German word that literally translates as “double walker.” A doppelganger isn’t someone who just resembles you, but is an exact double, right down to the way you act, talk and dress.

DOPPELGÄNGER?!

<https://www.liveabout.com/what-is-a-doppelganger-2593447> It might be fun to meet your doppelganger, but then it might not be. You’ll have to decide if you want to meet someone who is just like you, an exact double. Mind you, I’m not talking about a twin, but a complete stranger. You may need to think about that a while. **Question: would you loan someone that looked like you money?**

The reason I begin the message this way is because our journey has been to know the

**This is
JESUS**

Real Jesus...not a substitute, not a doppelganger, but the real Jesus. This is Jesus! **Each of the I AM statements in the Gospel of John is life changing.** A quick review so far: Jesus said, **“I AM the Bread of Life,” “I AM the Light of the World,”** and today, **“I AM the Door of the Sheep.”** Each of these titles is descriptive of who Jesus is so that we can say, “This is Jesus.”

The first thing we need to know about this title and description of Who Jesus is comes from the context from which **John 10**. In that context, much of this will not only make sense, but will help us to understand why Jesus can refer to himself as the Gate, the Door of the Sheep. Let’s first do a Bible study of the context.

John 9:1-12 As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" 3 "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life. 4 As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. 5 While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." 6 Having said this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means Sent). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. 8 His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?" 9 Some claimed that he was. Others said, "No, he only looks like him." But he himself insisted, "I am the

man." 10 "How then were your eyes opened?" they demanded. 11 He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see." 12 "Where is this man?" they asked him. "I don't know," he said.

- The miracle of caring for this man is the primary background for understanding that Jesus is the Door of the Sheep. This man who received compassion and care from Jesus is the one who will be the key illustration for seeing **Jesus as the Door**.
- One of the peculiar things about this miracle is that no one asked Jesus to do this miracle. The apostles simply raise the question out of their own theological bias that if someone was blind, it must have been some kind of punishment for sin.
 - Jesus doesn't dialogue about their theological incorrectness, but rather proceeds to perform a miracle.
- The miracle itself is different from how Jesus healed at other times. Instead of sending someone on their way, or looking to Heaven in prayer, there is a rather different way this time. Jesus spits on the ground, makes some mud and then places it on the guy's eyes. Why? Not sure. We don't know if it was just a little mud or a whole lot. But, it was enough to do what Jesus intended.
 - Caution: Be careful assuming that there are medicinal qualities of mud. Be very careful in that assumption. I think we demean the miracle when we think that Jesus applied a medicinal application. The emphasis is upon the power of Jesus to do the incredible, the impossible, the miraculous, and to so deviate misses the entire context of the other miracles which Jesus did, that are unexplainable. And remember, this guy was blind from birth. Just because we'd like to think that there are medicinal properties of mud doesn't make it so.
- With the mud on his eyes, the man is told to go to the Pool of Siloam, and he did. From that moment at the washing of his eyes in the pool, he went home seeing. When did the miracle happen? When Jesus placed the mud on his eyes? When he washed his eyes? When he acted in faith? Just something to ponder.
- Immediately this man becomes the talk of the community. The conversation banters back and forth as to if this man is the same one who was the beggar. Those who knew him asked themselves back and forth if this was the same person they knew, and the answer was yes it was the same person.
- The answer is undeniable. He is.



John 9:13-16 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. 14 Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. 15 Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see." 16 Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others asked, "How can a sinner do such miraculous signs?" So they were divided.

Why?

- The people bring the man who can now see to the religious authorities. Perhaps the question is, **"Why do that?"** Such an approach doesn't seem to happen with other miracles that Jesus performed. Why this time?
 - It's been suggested that those who witnessed this miracle felt that a religious issue was involved, because this took place on the Sabbath.
 - Perhaps the answer is also seen in **John 9:22 His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for already the Jews had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Christ would be put out of the synagogue.** Word has filtered down. From what is known of "being put out of the synagogue, this excommunication could last for 30, 30 more, or indefinitely. ([Robertson's Word Pictures, John 9:22](#)). Word was out. Be on the lookout for Jesus.
- The religious authorities then proceed to question the man who was born blind but now sees.
 - The questions are deliberate, but note that the questions center around **"how?"** **Note: there is no denial that he now sees.** This gentle switch up is an interesting note, for this very thing will be seen elsewhere. In fact, I've said before that **one of the greatest proofs that Jesus did his miracles is the fact that those who hated him never denied he did the miracle.** They just didn't like the fact that he did them!
- **16 Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others asked, "How can a sinner do such miraculous signs?" So they were divided.**
 - Note the gist of the argument: a man who breaks the Sabbath is not a man of God! But on the other hand, how can a sinner do such miraculous things? The answers are obvious with the rhetorical questions.
 - Is this a contradiction? Is it possible? The Pharisees were arguing strongly that Jesus was guilty of breaking the Sabbath and that he is a sinner.



- It might be well to remember that previously Jesus had been accused of being in league with Satan, and that's the reason he could cast out demons. As foolish as that sounded, that argument doesn't pop up this time, and for good reason. It's not a plausible reason.
- But, there's a third possibility why Pharisees think Jesus is a sinner. In **Deuteronomy 13:1-5**, *If a prophet, or one who foretells by dreams, appears among you and announces to you a miraculous sign or wonder, 2 and if the sign or wonder of which he has spoken takes place, and he says, "Let us follow other gods" (gods you have not known) "and let us worship them,"... 5 That prophet or dreamer must be put to death, because he preached rebellion against the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt and redeemed you from the land of slavery; he has tried to turn you from the way the LORD your God commanded you to follow. You must purge the evil from among you.*
 - Is this what the Pharisees thought Jesus was doing? Think this through with me.
 - What's very obvious though is that Jesus had not performed a miracle at random. *This sign involved mercy, healing and such that is completely in accordance with the character of who God is. This miracle is the kind of thing God would do.*
 - The summation is that anyone who does this kind of thing is really doing the kind of things God would do.
- The conclusion is that Jesus has cured a man of blindness, he cannot be a sinner, and he has acted in accordance with the power of God to bring mercy and compassion.
- **John 9:17** *Finally they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened." The man replied, "He is a prophet."*
 - This dialogue is interesting. The man who has been blind all his life has no position of authority, no position of learning, but he had direct dealings with Jesus. He gives his opinion and *calls Jesus a prophet.*
 - This designation of being a prophet has occurred before. When Jesus met the woman at the well and from that interaction, she perceived that Jesus was a prophet (**John 4**). The crowd when they were fed (**John 6**) identified Jesus as a prophet like Moses (in that he fed them in the wilderness). And now reflecting on his own healing, perhaps in his mind was something so simple as when Elisha told Naaman to go



and dip himself 7 times in the muddy Jordan River to be cleansed of his leprosy. **(2 Kings 5)**. It was a matter of faith and obedience.

- Perhaps this blind man, who now can see, was thinking of these great things and that's his point of reference. We aren't for sure, but these references do make a lot of sense in this instance as to why the blind man did what he did.

John 9:18-19 The Jews still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man's parents. 19 "Is this your son?" they asked. "Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?"

- Next on the agenda is to think that this is all a setup, that the man was never blind to begin with. The parents of the man are called to give testimony to the situation of their child.
- Like any parents, they are elated with joy that their son can now see, but they are also ill at ease thinking about how their son is now involved with the authorities concerning a situation of which they know little, other than he was born blind.
- The parents defer to their son for the answer. **(By the way, in order to be considered valid testimony, the person giving the testimony had to be at least 13. That gives us an idea that this man who was born blind is most likely an adult now, maybe living on his own as best as he could as a beggar. Probably his parents were too poor to support another adult in the house).** That the parents were not readily available gives indication that the man who can now see had been on his own, trying best to make a living from begging for money.


John 9:24-29 A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. may "We know this man is a sinner." 25 He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!" 26 Then they asked him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" 27 He answered, "I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?" 28 Then they hurled insults at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses! 29 We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from."

- There was no way of getting around the evidence. The man was born blind, and now he sees. There is no other conclusion than that of a miracle has taken place.
- The phrase, **"Give Glory to God"** is simply like taking an oath in court. It's a pledge to tell the truth. If one does not, may that person be stricken by God! (the phrase has nothing to do with worship), but a call to essentially, **"may God be honored by your testimony as truthful."**



- Again the questions, ***“what did he do to you,”*** as if something has been overlooked or someone is not telling all the story. ***Yet, the blind man holds himself strictly to the duty of a witness to tell only what he knows.*** The man born blind tells only what he knows.
- ***25 He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!"*** What makes this so important at this point is that this man did not know who Jesus was and refers to Jesus with the simple reference, ***“the one they call Jesus.” (John 9:11)***
 - In the court case, that’s an important note. No one has mentioned the name of Jesus, and oddest of all is that this man who has been healed doesn’t know anything about Jesus. As strange as all this is, that lack of being able to identify anything about Jesus specifically that allows the miracle to stand on its own, undeniable that it happened.

John 9:28-34 Then they hurled insults at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses! 29 We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from." 30 The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. 31 We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly man who does his will. 32 Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. 33 If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." 34 To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out.

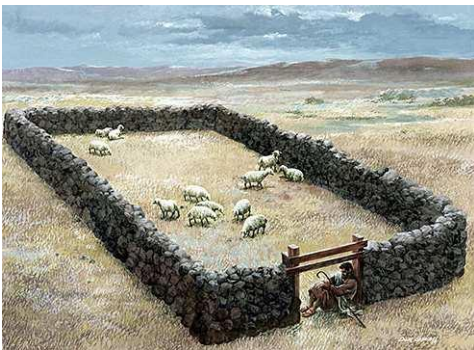
- Even though there is no acceptable answer to the questions put to the man born blind and now sees, he is thrown out. What his parents thought might happen to them happened instead to their son. 
- In the midst of that rejection, Jesus offers himself as the object of faith. Jesus had previously called people to follow him, and he had revealed himself to people.
- Jesus received the outcast here as well as so many other times when he did miracles, demonstrated love, and care.
- The blind beggar had felt, before the miracle, the lack of the leaders demonstrating God’s love, the lack of fellowship, the lack of respect, the lack of compassion, the lack of care.

The second thing we need to do is to have some basic information about sheep in order to grasp what Jesus will mean when he calls himself “I am the Gate, the Door for the Sheep.”

Since we are not an agricultural based community, we tend not to know a lot about

animals, and sheep in specific. Here's some information I got from the internet from a farmer who raises sheep.

- Unlike cattle, sheep require up-close-and-personal care. For instance, sheep lack the ability to regulate how much they eat. If food is out, they will eat it. And if they eat too much, they will die. In addition, they have sensitive stomachs. So a shepherd must feed them the right amount of the right food.
- Also, sheep have no ability to protect themselves. They are frail and slow, and they cannot kick, claw or bite. They are easily spooked. They will scatter in panic and, once cornered, sit petrified while staring at their predator. A shepherd is required to protect them. This is why sheep must be penned at night and watched over by day.
- Sheep are loud. They are intellectually challenged (scientific fact). They are prone to wander off. They stink. Sheep cannot live on their own. ... If the wool were not shorn, it would grow so long that it would get top heavy. Then when it got wet, they would fall over, legs flailing. They would die helplessly waiting for a shepherd to come and turn them over.
- Sheep cannot be driven. It's not easy to force them to go anywhere. If you drive them, they will scatter. <https://www.joshhunt.com/2015/12/21/getting-to-know-sheep/>



- Sheep aren't intelligent. Sheep are not known to be smart or cunning animals when it comes to safety; rather, they are susceptible and tend to wander away from the protection of the shepherd.
- Sheep respond to the shepherd's voice. The voice of the shepherd brings comfort and security to the sheep. Sheep are Directionless - Sheep get lost easily. Individual sheep easily wander away from the flock while they graze.

<http://inhonoroftheking.blogspot.com/2011/04/why-does-god-call-us-sheep.html>

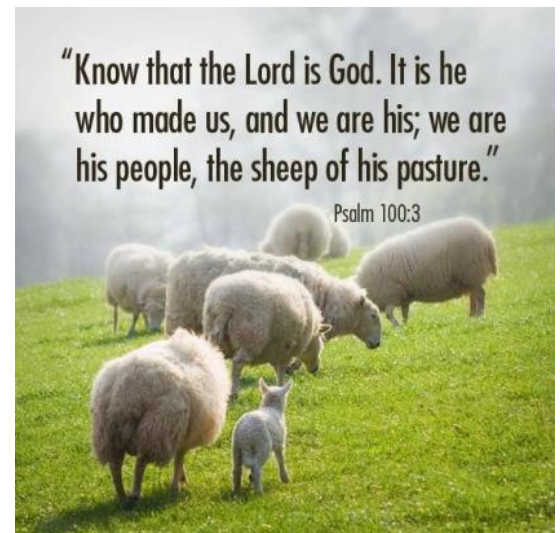
The third thing that's important in this title of Jesus is the Door is that God's preference is to refer to people as sheep. That Jesus compares us to sheep is not (necesarily) a compliment.. Sheep are among the dumbest of all creatures. Most animals, in many cases, will survive if released into the wild. They will learn to fend for themselves and make it. But a sheep released into the wild cannot survive. Sheep have no survival skills whatsoever. They are totally dependent upon the shepherd - just like we are. The sheep come to know that when the shepherd speaks they should follow because his plan for them is bet ter than their plan for themselves. It may be that one of the reasons we don't know the will of God in certain areas is because we have not applied what is clearly the will of God for all areas. Obedience to revealed truth guarantees guidance in matters unrevealed.

<https://www.christianity.com/jesus/following-jesus/discipleship/how-are-we-like-sheep.html>

1. Sheep have no sense of direction
2. Sheep are defenseless
3. Sheep can't get up without help
4. Sheep are emotional and recognize the Shepherd's voice
5. Sheep are not meant to carry burdens
6. Sheep will settle for less
7. Sheep are valuable.
8. Sheep cannot care for themselves when wounded
10. Sheep are innocent

God compares us to sheep because we need Him as our Good Shepherd

<https://momremade.com/god-compares-us-to-sheep/>



And a fourth thing that would be helpful is how the Pharisees, Scribes and Teachers of the Law really missed the mark in caring for people as shepherds.

- Those who were given oversight and care of the people were told that they failed and Jesus said so. The failures are listed in Matthew 23. A quick review:
- **Matthew 23:2-5** *"The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. 3 So you must obey them and do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. 4 They tie up heavy loads and put them on men's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them. 5* **"Everything they do is done for men to see:**
- **Matthew 23:13-15** *"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the kingdom of heaven in men's faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to. ... 15* **"Woe to you, teachers of the law and**

Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as you are.

- As those who cared for the people of Israel, these leaders failed, and failed miserably.
- There are other occasions, such as when Jesus asked the question if it was right to heal on the Sabbath? Was it right to get one's donkey out of a hole, but not heal someone on the Sabbath? Was it right for people to go hungry on the Sabbath because they were told that gathering grain on the Sabbath was wrong! On and on these confrontations went, and each time, the failure of the leadership was obvious.

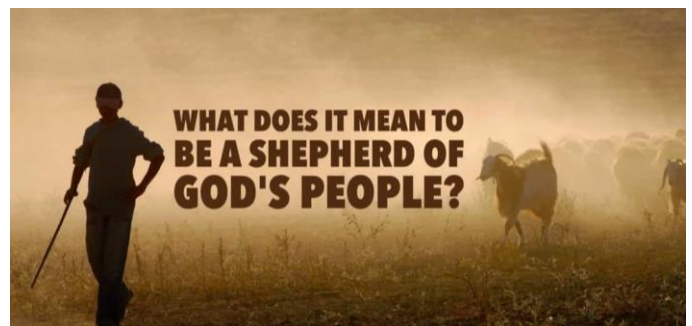
Thus, with those 4 things in mind, we need to read the text for today:

John 10:1-10 "I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. 2 The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. 3 The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice." 6 Jesus used this figure of speech, but they did not understand what he was telling them. 7 Therefore Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

Let's ask two questions:

First, this Question: Who are the shepherds of God's flock to whom Jesus is referring that they are no better than hired help, thief robber or stranger? We have just read about those who considered themselves the shepherds, but their actions display just the opposite as being uncaring, unloving, uncompassionate and unsympathetic to the physical and spiritual needs of people.

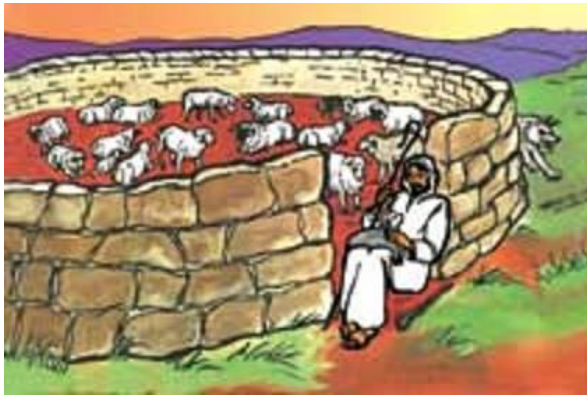
- **The blind man was like a sheep. The religious leaders that kicked him out are like the bad shepherds.** Was he treated as a shepherd would treat his sheep or was he treated as one who really doesn't care about the sheep? Again, the answers are obvious.
- In this story, it was the "shepherds of Israel," the Pharisees, the Scribes, the Teachers of the Law who kicked this guy out of the synagogue.



- This account is strongly related to a similar account in **Zechariah 11:17, "Woe to the worthless shepherd, who deserts the flock! May the sword strike his arm and his right eye! May his arm be completely withered, his right eye totally blinded!"**
 - Those shepherds were more concerned about feeding themselves than they were in looking after the sheep.
- Such is the pronouncement upon the religious leaders of the day.

A second question to ask: What does it mean, "Jesus is the Door, the Gate for the sheep?"

- ***A basic understanding of what it means to be the gate for the sheep:*** There were two kinds of sheepfolds or pens. One kind was a public sheepfold found in the cities and



villages. It would be large enough to hold several flocks of sheep. This sheep pen would be in the care of a porter or doorkeeper, whose duty it was to guard the door to the sheep pen during the night and to admit the shepherds in the morning. The shepherds would call their sheep, each of which knew its own shepherd's voice, and would lead them out to pasture. The second kind of sheep pen was in the countryside, where the shepherds would keep their flocks in good

weather. ***This type of sheep pen was nothing more than a rough circle of rocks piled into a wall with a small open space to enter. Through it the shepherd would drive the sheep at nightfall. Since there was no gate to close—just an opening—the shepherd would keep the sheep in and wild animals out by lying across the opening. He would sleep there, in this case literally becoming the door to the sheep.*** <https://www.gotquestions.org/I-am-the-door.html>

- Jesus is the door, he is the one who guards, protects, provides, and looks out for the sheep. He keeps them in safety. No sheep could go in or out without him knowing it.
 - This is also part of the underlying message here.

7 Therefore Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

I want to shift gears here. Jesus is the door, the gate for the sheep. Jesus is the Door to Life, the Gate to Life. Jesus uses a symbolic term, **a door**, to describe his relationship with people. **He makes the exclusive claim that the only way to the Father is through Him (John 14:6).** ***Using that idea of accessing life through Jesus as the Door, accepting Jesus is like going through a door. Most of us here have gone through Jesus as the Door, but are there other possibilities? I want us to think for a moment about the fact that there are different doors through which people go through to live their lives, and it's not always Jesus.*** Some of the doors people go through are just plain foolishness.

Illustration: I'm really touched by the phrase, ***"No one wants to be an alcoholic or drug addict when they grow up,"*** but yet so many are, they have gone through the doors, making decisions that are foolish, and never thought they would open such a horrible way of life for them. Why? Because the doors they went through they assumed were harmless, not as big a threat as everyone else had said, not as bad, or they just felt like they could conquer whatever the challenges would be. ***Foolishly, many of these people continue to go through the doors that will destroy their lives.***

For some, it's alcohol or drugs, but for others, it's money, sex, acceptance, a sense of belonging, or fear, (just to name a few things). But through those doors our loved ones have gone, not knowing that the Door to Life was also available.

What I'd like to do to conclude this message is to ask for each of us to think about those we know who have gone and continue to go through the wrongs doors of life, wreaking havoc, destruction and ruin. Perhaps they are like the poor beggar man who reaches out for hope but only gets kicked out from the places where he thought help could be found. Think about these people, and begin to pray for them.

What I want to do is to refresh out thinking with what we found on the other side of the Door that is Jesus, and then be able to live and share what we found! (**Illustration:** What's on the other side of the door we have to go through? Those of you who have been to

Disneyworld in Florida know that there are gates all around the place. If you have kids with you, they already have an idea of what's on the other side of the gates. They are eager to go through those gates, through the doors because they know what's on the other side.) ***With Jesus as the Gate for the Sheep, the Door, we have some great ideas of what's on the other***

side. What we found there, has changed our lives! What we found there is more than what we can imagine! And in just thinking about our loved ones and all the horrible doors they've been through, it's great to know that what we found, they can too! We can help them to see Jesus and to have faith to go through that door. We need to pray for them, to love



them, and to show them how our lives have been blessed and their can too! With our prayers and our love, we can help them go through the Door, Jesus, and find life.

From these verses are three things we found because Christ is our Door three things that are on the other side. Because we have entered through that door and now stand on the other side, we can't keep what we found to ourselves! Our loved ones need what we've found! The good thing is that they can find in us what we found in Jesus as the Door, the Door to life! 9 I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

1. *First, what we found because of Jesus, on the other side of the Door, is salvation: I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved.*

Illustration: Several years ago when we lived in Scottsbluff, Nebraska, snow storms would come and basically shut down the area. I remember one of the biggest tragedies that occurred were blizzards. On the outskirts of Scottsbluff was a hi-way that headed into Wyoming. When the blizzard would hit, that road would be closed to all traffic. However some would always attempt to “travel and disregard” the warnings. The year we lived there we did have a severe blizzard (about this time of the year), and one man was caught on the hi-way. He got out of his car and started walking toward town. He died of hypothermia within half a mile of his car. The saddest part, he was less than 2 miles from town. Had he stayed in his car, he would have survived.



2. That's how we do it a lot of times. We think we can make it through dangerous situations, and we think we can make it through life without Christ. We think we can disregard the warnings that this life offers nothing of eternal value, only destruction and ruin. Yet, we continue on as if none of that matters. Like the guy in the blizzard, we get out of the car and do what we think we need to do.
3. *Here's the point: Through Christ as the Door is salvation, eternal life.*
 - a. We know going through that door involves confessing Christ and putting our faith in him, but through the Door of Christ, *we find forgiveness*. Do we realize how important forgiveness is?
 - i. Right now we have people we know in high stages of depression because they haven't found forgiveness for the things they've done or had done to them. Every day we hear lawyers saying, “If you were abused as a child by a member of the clergy, a trusted school official, or anyone in authority, there

is compensation for you.” We’ve got this backwards! Instead of working through forgiveness and restoration, we live in a world where that’s one of the last things we consider...and we pay the price for that. Anger is one of those prices.

- b. Like the guy who thought he was safe to get out of his car in the blizzard, we make our own decisions and those are costly decisions.

4. **Through Christ, we are saved:**

- a. What Christ offers to us right now through him is life, **not just getting by, but thriving!** If we have pain, he is with us. If we have troubles, he is with us. If we fail, he is with us. If we have issues, he is with us to counsel us. If we are lonely, he is with us. If we feel isolated and unloved, we know his love is never ending.
- b. And, also the other side of this life, beyond the grave, what Christ offers is life everlasting! **Not a boring existence, but a life that is based on the power of Christ.**
 - i. I think sometimes we underrate heaven and life beyond the grave because



we know so little about it and all we have to compare is life right now.

- i. Yet we know that what Christ promises us is far greater than what we can imagine. In fact, some of the closest ideas we can grasp as to how great it is to be in God’s presence is to have streets paved with gold. We think that is so wonderful, but that’s just the tip of all that is there.

- iii. It’s a place of rejoicing, a place of victory, a place where we will lose track of time, find ourselves wanting to praise God all the time, a place where we will be transformed into newness, and etc.

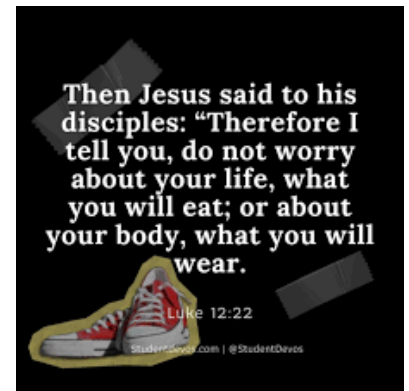
- 5. Here’s the point: So many of our friends keep going through the wrong doors of life, and all they find is misery and pain. **Continue to pray for your loved ones. We can easily see that our loved ones are so tired of going through the wrongs doors of life. It’s time for us to show them the Door that leads to life, it’s through Christ. “It’s time.”**

IT’S TIME

- 6. **Second what’s found, because of Jesus, on the other side of the door is safety and peace. I am the gate; ... He will come in and go out, and find pasture.** This is the second thing which one finds on the other side of the Door, with **Jesus as the Door for the Sheep**. What makes this so great is the phrase, **“come in and go out and find pasture.”**

SAFETY AND PEACE

- a. Let me illustrate this with our own ideas of **'being home.'** When we are home, we come and go, leave and return. We leave to go to work, to go to school, to go places, and then return home to a place that is safe, a place where we will be fed, we will find rest and relax. **Home is a place of safety and peace.**
- b. Take this idea of what life is like in Christ, on the other side of the door and how safety and peace exist.
- c. Jesus counsels us about life in Him as he says: **"don't worry about your life...what you will wear, what you will eat...don't store up treasures for yourself in heaven but seek first the Kingdom of God...forgive people when they sin against you..." (Matthew 7)**
 - i. Jesus introduces to us a whole new way to live, a way to learn how to trust God, even when the problems and issues of life emerge...even in the face of difficulties.
- d. On the other side of the door is the counsel of Christ on how to live, **because without Christ, we don't get it right.** We fight, we grumble, we can't deal with our pride, we can't forget, we seldom feel important. Christ counsels us in all ways on how to live.



because

peace which they will never **have because they do not have Christ as their Lord and Savior...they do not have the wisdom of Scripture helping to form and shape their attitudes and decisions.**

8. **Third, what's found, because of Jesus, on the other side of the door is the abundant life. I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.**

- a. **Illustration:** A man by the name of Hitchens was not just an atheist; he was an anti-theist, (anti God), as well as anti-religion, believing it spoils everything. He said so in his book, *God Is Not Great*. In his suffering and death, he did not change his mind about God and the possibility of a life to come, although he did appreciate the good wishes from everyone, including Christians who were praying for him. In ... a debate, Hitchens spoke of death and said, "It will happen to all of us that at some point, you get tapped on the shoulder and told not just that the party's over, but slightly worse: The party's going on, but you have to leave." We Christians have a different point of view. However much we enjoy this life, we believe that when we leave this earth we actually are going to the party and that party will

Abundant Life

never end. <https://www.preaching.com/sermon-illustrations/illustration-eternal-life/> J. Michael Shannon

- b. **On the other side of the Door is abundant life.** We talk about this as if we might know what it is, and perhaps this illustration best helps us grasp the idea that death does not remove us from the celebration of life, but rather takes us to an even higher level of enjoyment, because of Jesus.
- c. *A little boy who lived far out in the country in the late 1800s had reached the age of twelve and had never in all his life seen a circus. You can imagine his excitement, when one day a poster went up at school announcing that on the next Saturday a traveling circus was coming to the nearby town. He ran home with the glad news and the question, "Daddy, can I go?" Although the family was poor, the father sensed how important this was to the lad. "If you do your Saturday chores ahead of time," he said, "I'll see to it that you have the money to go." Come Saturday morning, the chores were done and the little boy stood by the breakfast table, dressed in his Sunday best. His father reached down into the pocket of his overalls and pulled out a dollar bill-the most money the little boy had possessed at one time in all his life. The father cautioned him to be careful and then sent him on his way to town. The boy was so excited, his feet hardly seemed to touch the ground all the way. As he neared the outskirts of the village, he noticed people lining the streets, and he worked his way through the crowd until he could see what was happening. Lo and behold, it was the approaching spectacle of a circus parade! The parade was the grandest thing this lad had ever seen. Caged animals snarled as they passed, bands beat their rhythms and sounded shining horns, midgets performed acrobatics while flags and ribbons swirled overhead. Finally, after everything had passed where he was standing, the traditional circus clown, with floppy shoes, baggy pants, and a brightly painted face, brought up the rear. As the clown passed by, the little boy reached into his pocket and took out that precious dollar bill. Handing the money to the clown, the boy turned around and went home. What had happened? The boy thought he had seen the circus when he had only seen the parade!*

<http://www.higherpraise.com/illustrations/abundantlife.htm> There is so much about abundant life that can be said, and this too is what's on the other side of the door.

- 9. **So many of our friends are trying to live life as best as they can, assuming they have an abundant life.** They busily pursue the American dream, only to find that it's a nightmare. They pursue the job with all their vigor only to complain that it's too demanding, too much work and not enough pay.

- a. We know these people, and maybe that's us too! We want the abundant life in Christ, but we are willing to settle for only a portion of what all it involves.
 - b. **Abundant life in Christ means forgiveness, guilt removed, freedom to love everyone, to find joy in the midst of sorrow, to have peace in a world that is unsettled and at war.**
 - i. Abundant living is about recognizing that God is on the throne, His authority and power is undiminished. His ways with us are good, not troublesome.
 - ii. Abundant living is about living with a sense of unworthiness, but being made worthy by the blood of Christ.
 - iii. Abundant living is about finding happiness where none can find it, about finding joy where some would never look, and about having assurance of God's love when so many can't even think of its possibility.
10. **On the other side of the Door of Christ is abundant living for his disciples.** Again bring to your mind those who are living in the squalor of sin and guilt, who need to come to Christ... to find the abundant life which cannot be found elsewhere. Pray for them, show them what it's like to have abundant life **because on the other side of the Door of Christ is the life others have always wanted...in Christ!**

Conclusion: Burger King ... announced the discontinuation of Satisfries, its "healthier" french fries, at most of its restaurants. Burger King allowed its franchisees to stop selling Satisfries, and only about 2,500 of the 7,400 locations in the U.S. and Canada decided to keep them on the menu. Burger King claimed that Satisfries were healthier than regular fries, because they used a less porous type of batter that prevented more oil from being absorbed during frying. Unfortunately, Burger King failed to clearly promote that difference at its restaurants. The calories also didn't seem to measure up. A small order of Satisfries has 270 calories, compared to 230 calories for a small order of McDonald's fries -- but only because the latter weighed less. Satisfries were also more expensive, costing \$1.89 for a small order, compared to \$1.59 for Burger King's regular fries. Some disappointed customers nicknamed Satisfries the "saddest fries."



<https://www.fool.com/investing/general/2014/08/17/why-burger-kings-satisfries-failed-to-satisfy-hung.aspx>

We go through life with a lot of things that aren't true, believing they might be, hoping they might be. **We are willing to accept substitutes because we believe they might be healthier for us, but in all reality, the substitutes are not what we want.**

Today, we need This Jesus, *the one who offers himself as the Door, and offers to us on the other side of that Door salvation, peace and a home, and satisfaction!* Only Christ can do that! Who are the people in your world that need to go through Jesus as The Door? What will we do about them? Will we let them stay on the other side of the Door, wasting away or will we show them Jesus? What about us? Do we yet need to go through the Door and find the life Christ gives? Today is the day to do what's needed. Will you?

