

Repentance Tabernacle Church

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I AM the Door!

Scripture: John 10:7-11

To enter into a relationship with Jesus Christ we must go through the "door" that God provided for mankind's redemption. This "door" is the only way that we can partake of God's holiness, because the door itself is holy. Holiness is an inner attitude of brokenness and surrender of the heart to the will of God that translates into behavioral transformation in every aspect of an individual's life. Jesus is that "door" which one must enter to find eternal life. Jesus' is the door of the sheepfold meaning He was the legitimate owner of the sheep and thus He had the right to access to the sheep of the house of Israel. Jesus states all the false prophets, religious leaders, and messiahs were thieves and robbers. These false shepherds did not care for the sheep, but came to take advantage of them.

Jesus tells us in John 14:2-6, "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." If anyone enters by Him he will be saved. Those who came into the sheepfold by the true shepherd would be safe having the protection from the robbers and thieves. Jesus said that those who entered by Him would go in and out and find pasture. They would have the safe haven of the sheepfold to protect them each day and they would find food, comfort and rest. Jesus as the Good Shepherd came to give the sheep abundant life. He did not come to take advantage of the sheep, but to provide for them and give His life so that the sheep could be saved.

The motive of the thief was to steal, kill and destroy what belonged to another. Jesus is referring to the decadent religious system that Judaism had degraded into. Trying to make another way to God. Trying to bring men to God through works, through the foolishness of the Pharisees and their endeavor to keep the traditional aspects of the law. And that's exactly what false religious systems will do for you. They will steal from you. They will rob you and ultimately, they'll destroy you. But the Jewish leaders, instead of leading people to God, exploited and oppressed them. "But the sheep did not hear them." Jesus was the true shepherd and spiritual leader of the people, but the scribes and Pharisees fought against him, setting themselves up as leaders. By teaching human traditions instead of God's commandments, they enslaved the Jewish people and strengthened their own power. Like thieves they robbed the flock, like wolves they destroyed it.

John 10:1 says, "He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber." Jeremiah 23:1 tells us, "Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture;" Ezekiel 34:2-3; "Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill them that are fed; but ye feed not the flock." This had been the general character of the Pharisees and scribes. They sought wealth, office, ease at the expense of the people, and thus deserved the character of thieves and robbers. They insinuated themselves slyly as a thief, and they oppressed and spared not, like a robber.

Mankind possesses three basic psychological essentials that are conducive to spiritual health and optimal performance in the kingdom of God: sense of identity, sense of purpose, and sense of destiny. Unfortunately, when mankind lacks these essentials, his life becomes empty and meaningless. This is the opposite of God's will for mankind's life, for Jesus declared, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). To possess his abundant life, we should understand that Jesus Christ is the source of our personal sense of identity, purpose, and destiny.

Though the great mass of the people were corrupted, yet there were always some who were the humble and devoted people of God. Paul makes a statement about Elias when he felt left alone, "Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life. But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal" (Romans 11:3-4). So, it will always be someone that will stand up for the Word of God. Though the great mass of teachers may be corrupt, yet the true friends of God will mourn in secret places, and refuse to listen to the instruction that causes them to err.

Jesus Christ is the only way to obtain eternal life, so open your heart to Him, He knocking today, do not delay, allow Him to enter in!