



“Growing in Knowing”

1. Putting God First

John 2: 1-11 - Turning Water into Wine : God's glory and disciples believed in Him

- Your life performance is based on a true and complete surrender to God's will
- They will be a time to when the supply of the wine of your joy will fail, but those who know their God, they shall do exploit.

2. I am the Bread of Life

John 6: 35-48

- People eat bread to satisfy physical hunger and to sustain physical life. We can fulfill the spiritual need and sustain spiritual life only by a right relationship with Jesus Christ.

3. I am the Light of the World

- ***John 9: 1-7*** Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind - as we are all born default sinners / blinds spiritually - we must follow Jesus who is the Light of the World; in Him is the light of life.

4. I am the Gate

John 10: 7-9 So he explained it to them: “I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who came before me were thieves and robbers. But the true sheep did not listen to them. 9 Yes, I am the gate. Those who come in through me will be saved. They will come and go freely and will find good pastures.

1. Situation

Why couldn't people understand Jesus' figure of speech? (10:6)

People who earnestly sought the truth could find profound spiritual insight in Jesus' figures of speech. For others, they were little more than fascinating yet puzzling riddles. Those who were resistant to Jesus' message often

misunderstood his meaning or rejected the implications if they could conclude what he intended.

The crowds (pharisees) missed the opportunity to recognize Christ as the Messiah because they were busy searching the scripture instead of accepting Christ as Lord and Saviour.

John 5: 39- 40 *You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, 40 yet you refuse to come to me to have life.*

From verse 7, the Bible says that Jesus used the figure of speech, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. Then, He decided to break it down for them: *I am the gate for the sheep.*

- The shepherd was a figure who represented **faithfulness, compassion, guidance** and **protection; compared to the hired one.**
- The figure of the shepherd was also a prophetic picture of the Messiah. Jesus not only displayed the characteristics of a good shepherd, **he demonstrated the power of the Messiah who would shepherd the people of Israel.**
 - *Psalm 80:1 - Hear us, Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock. You who sit enthroned between the cherubim, shine forth*
 - *Psalm 23:1- The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.*

2. Observation

There are two kinds of gates:

The "**narrow**" gate is clearly restrictive and does not permit entrance to what Jesus prohibits. The "**wide**" gate seems far more inviting. The "broad" road is spacious and accommodates the crowd and their baggage; the other road is "narrow" and restricting, because it is the way of persecution and opposition.

Galatians 5: 19-21 *Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*

- Christ is narrow gate through which sheep go in and out, the name of him who brings salvation to those who follow his guidance.

- Christ is "an open door" which is used as a great opportunity of doing greater things. The door of the kingdom of heaven denotes the conditions which must be complied with in order to be received into the kingdom of God, you must pass through a gate that is Jesus Christ.

***Ephesians 2: 18** - For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,*

Others had come before Christ, claiming **authority** and **position**. But the elect sheep of Israel did not hear them because they knew they were claiming what did not rightfully belong to them.

In this world of uncertainty, where there is a proliferation of gates that lead to different destinations, we must find the right gate that leads us to the door of God's Kingdom.

3. Inspiration

What we must know is that the two gates are not ends in themselves.

- The narrow gate leads to life, i.e., to the consummated kingdom (cf. vv.21-23);
- But the wide gate leads to eternal death (cf. 25:34, 46; Jn 17:12; Ro 9:22; et al.).
- Democratic decisions do not determine truth and righteousness in the kingdom; the way that leads to life is exclusively by revelation.

Everything that deals with spirituality is always restrictive - you have the power of choice and decision to follow and enter by the narrow gate, which leads to eternal life, Christ alone.

It seems best to regard the gate as something entered in this life as one begins the path of discipleship. Entrance through the gate into the narrow way of persecution begins now but issues in the consummated kingdom at the other end of that way. In other words, even the beginning of this path to life is restrictive.

The gate that leads to eternal life (John 10:7-9) is called "narrow." This does not mean that it is difficult to become a Christian but that **there is only one way to eternal life with God and that only a few decide to walk that road.**

- Believing in Jesus is the only way to heaven, because he alone died for our sins and made us right before God.

- **Living his way may not be popular, but it is true and right.** Thank God there is one way!

4. Conclusion

The wide gate and broad way lead to destruction (Prov. 16:25). The narrow gate and difficult way lead to life. Jesus is both the gate (John 10:9) and the way (John 14:6). But while this is a valid application of the passage, the interpretation is for believers. **Jesus is saying that to follow Him would require faith, discipline, and endurance.** But this difficult life is the only life worth living. If you choose the easy way, you will have plenty of company, but you will miss God's best for you.

5. Recommendation

Believers are taught that **"We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God"** (Acts 14:22). With all the dangers and temptations that beset a Christian, it is only a miracle of divine grace that preserves him for the heavenly kingdom.