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March 5, 2017

The Door
John 10:1-10

What would your ideal life look like? Feel like?
What would you be doing? Where would you be living?
What would your relationships look like?

What is “The Door” that stands between you and this ideal life?

John 10:1-10 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbs up some other way, he is a thief and a robber. 2 But he who enters by the door is a shepherd of the sheep. 3 To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he puts forth all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 A stranger they simply will not follow, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers."

6 This figure of speech Jesus spoke to them, but they did not understand what those things were which He had been saying to them.

7 So Jesus said to them again, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. 9 I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

First Clue: Jesus says,

- *I am the door of the sheep. (V. 9)*
- *I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. (V. 10)*

Jesus the Door:

I. Follow the right _____.

John 10:1 *"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbs up some other way, he is a thief and a robber."*

John 10:10 *"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."*

II. Go through the right _____.

John 10:7-10 So Jesus said to them again, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. 9 I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

Point:

Doggy Bag: Something to take home and chew on!



1. This week: Practice discernment.

Principles of discernment:

1. The belief that God is for and among us. Romans 8:38 “nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus”.
2. The willingness to let go and be wide-open to God’s presence and leading
3. The understanding that love is our first and primary calling. I Corinthians 13
4. The belief that the Holy Spirit is God’s presence to communicate with us.

Steps to Discernment

1. I am indifferent to any outcome but that which is directed by God’s Spirit – Mary’s commitment to the angel in Luke 1:38
2. Direction and calling – How does this choice fit with the overall direction and calling of God on my life?
3. Consolation and desolation – Which choice brings the deepest sense of life, inner peace and freedom? II Corinthians 3:17
4. Scripture – Is there a specific Scripture that God is bringing to me related to this choice? What is it saying to me?
5. Life of Christ – Is this choice consistent with what I know of the mind and heart of Christ and his loving purpose in the world?
6. Character growth and development – How will this direction deepen the fruit of the Holy Spirit in me – particularly the fruit of love? What is God doing in my character and spiritual growth? Will this choice continue to deepen this growth?
7. Eternal perspective – On my deathbed, which choice would I wish I had made?
8. Community – How does this choice align with what others observe of who I am and what God is doing in my life? Am I willing to fully open up to trusted spiritual friends and seek their input?
9. Seek inner confirmation through time in prayer and solitude and living as if you have already made the decision for a few days.

Excerpts taken from *Sacred Rhythms*, Ruth Barton – Ch. 7 Discernment

If you’d like to talk personally and confidentially w/ Pastor Todd about your relationship with Christ, please email pastortodd@thevineva.org or call 703.573.5836 to set up an appointment.