

*Notes used on 11/4/67 12-22-73 Saturday night*THE GREAT CONTRAST

1. Jesus contrasts himself with other teachers. There were those teachers:
  1. Who taught the people simply to win their following.
  2. Such teachers are more worthy of the title "thieves" than "shepherds," for their object was selfish. They simply wanted men as followers to swell their number.
2. Jesus the Master teacher:
  1. Jesus taught the people for their own good.
  2. Jesus wanted men for their salvation.
  3. It was not mere life that he secured for them, but the abundant life, the life that it is a joy to live.

THE DOOR INVOLVED.      John 10:1,2, 7, 9

1. Jesus is the door of entrance. Those who enter:
  1. Those who enter by the door into the sheepfold. Their marks:
    1. He has a lawful entrance into the ministry of and for Christ.
    2. He aims at nothing but the good of the sheep: the salvation of souls.
    3. His aim is to sacrifice himself entirely to service, and even to the meanest of his flock.
  2. Those who try to climb in some other way. Their marks:
    1. Their entrance is by ambition, avarice, love of ease, a desire to enjoy the conveniences of life and promote their own interest.
    1. The same is a thief and a robber.
    2. Who ever strives to enter in by these ways deserves no better name than thief and robber.

THE VALUE OF A DOOR

1. A door is a means of entrance.
  1. A building without a door is a vault sealed in death.
  2. A divine plan (so called) without a door would be meaningless, un-reachable, useless.
    1. Noah's ark had but one door.
    2. The Tabernacle of the wilderness had but one door. THERE IS BUT ONE DOOR.
2. A door is a means of separation.
  1. To be on one side of a closed door means to be separated, cut off from those on the other side.
  2. Doors are made to be used and when they are used, a person passes from one place to another.
3. A door is means of protection.
  1. When the icy-blasts of a winter storm beat upon a home, the closed door becomes a shelter.
    1. Behind its solid strength is warmth, comfort, protection.
  2. A
4. A door is a means of exclusion.
  1. An open door issues forth an invitation.
  2. A strong door promises protection.
  3. A locked door is something to be feared. Matthew 25:10-13



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TWO COURSES OPEN TO US: His or the Devil's:

1. We may follow Christ to receive, to receive life, to receive life in abundance.
  1. We are of necessity in some one's pasture.
2. We may follow Satan to lose, to lose life, to lose it utterly.
  1. Satan would have you think that you can get into heaven some other way.

A CONTRAST BETWEEN THE THIEF AND THE SHEPHERD

1. The thief takes: the Shepherd gives.
  1. The world cries, "Give me": the Saviour cries, "I give thee."
  2. The world says, "it is more blessed to receive than to give."
  3. Jesus says, "it is more blessed to give than to receive."
2. The thief takes life: The Shepherd gives life.
  1. "The thief cometh not, but for to steal and to kill." John 10:10
  2. "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." John 10:10
3. The thief comes to destroy: Jesus comes to give life abundantly." John 10:10
  1. We lose when we begin to follow the world: then we become spiritually blunt and blind. Ultimately we are utterly destroyed both body and soul.
  2. Jesus came to give us life and life abundantly.

WHAT CHRIST MEANT ABOUT THE ABUNDANT LIFE. What that life is:

1. It is fellowship with God.
  1. The whole man comes under the elevating and inspiring influence of Christ's ideal of life.
2. It is life of service for others. What is the highest duty of life?
  1. It is not simply living for oneself, nor does it consist in thinking about how much we have obtained.
    1. The man of the world finds the joy and duty and end of life in its increase of his own resources.
    2. The Christian teaching finds that joy and duty and end, not in getting, but in giving life.
3. The abundant life. What does this mean? The abundant life is:
  1. A life of great vitality.
    1. A deficient, a low vitality, makes for ignorance, mischief, misery, and weakness spiritually speaking.
  2. A life of wide interest.
    1. Christianity does not deaden men to the interests of this life with its common joys and sorrows but gives a larger and more intense view of all things.
  3. A life of deep enjoyment.
    1. A man is not fully living who does not enjoy living the good life.
    2. It is when we are weak and only half alive that life is a burden & Sigh.



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