

Closed Doors

Doors of the Bible teach lessons

- Gn.4⁷ sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.
- Gn.19⁹ And they said, Stand back! Then they said, This one came in to stay here, and he keeps acting as a judge; now we will deal worse with you than with them. So they pressed hard against the man Lot, and came near to break down the door. ¹⁰ But the men reached out their hands and pulled Lot into the house with them, and shut the door...

Doors of the Bible teach lessons

- Ex.12²³ For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you.
- Ex.21⁶ then his master shall bring him to the judges. He shall also bring him to the door, or to the doorpost, and his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him forever.

Doors of the Bible teach lessons

- Josh.2¹⁹ So it shall be that whoever goes outside the doors of your house into the street, his blood shall be on his own head, and we will be guiltless. And whoever is with you in the house, his blood shall be on our head if a hand is laid on him.
- Jg.11³¹ then it will be that whatever comes out of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the people of Ammon, shall surely be the LORD's, and I will offer it up as a burnt offering.

Doors of the Bible teach lessons

- 2 Sm.11⁹ But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house.
- Prov.26¹⁴ As a door turns on its hinges, So does the lazy man on his bed.
- Mt.27⁶⁰ and laid it in his new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb, and departed.

Doors of the Bible teach lessons

- Jn.10⁷ Then Jesus said to them again, Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. . . .⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. [Ac.14:27, door of faith]
- Jn.20¹⁹ Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came . . .

Doors of the Bible teach lessons

- Ac.5¹⁹ But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, ²⁰ Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life.
- 1 Co.16⁸ But I will tarry in Ephesus until Pentecost. ⁹ For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.
- Ja.5⁹ Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!

I. The door that shuts the Lord in – prayer

Matthew 6:6

But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

- This passage does NOT forbid ...
 - Public prayer
 - Jesus prayed in presence of others.
Mt.14; 26
 - Temple was house of prayer, Lk.18:10
 - Paul prayed in presence of others,
Ac.27:33-35

Matthew 6:6

- This passage does NOT forbid ...
 - Public prayer
 - Praying in assemblies
 - 1 Co.14:16-17

Matthew 6:6

- This passage does NOT forbid ...
 - Public prayer
 - Praying in assemblies
 - Praying during work, travel, etc.
 - 2 Sm.15:31
 - Neh.2:4
 - Mk.1:35, no closet; no door to shut
 - Mk.6:41, 46, mountain

Matthew 6:6

- This passage *does* warn against ...
 1. **Insincerity in prayer.** “*But you...*”
 - Contrasts disciples and hypocrites (1-5)
 - Pharisee frames flowery sentences to impress listeners
 - Humble disciple pours out his heart in sincere praise... Cf. Lk.18

Matthew 6:6

- This passage *does* warn against ...
 1. Insincerity in prayer. “But you...”
 2. Irregularity in prayer. “Whenever...”
 - Ph.4:6-7
 - Nothing – anxiety is sign of unbelief
 - Everything... pray with thanksgiving
 - Ep.5:20

Matthew 6:6

- This passage *does* warn against ...
 1. Insincerity in prayer. “But you...”
 2. Irregularity in prayer. “Whenever...”
 3. Interferences and interruptions. “Pray...”
 - Minds get distracted.
 - Praying during work and travel cannot substitute for quiet time alone with God without distractions.
 - If Jesus needed it, we do too. Mk.1.

I. The door that shuts the Lord in

II. The door that shuts the
Lord out – indifference

Rv.3:20, amazing picture

- Rv.1:13-17
- Jesus could 'crash' through any door.
(Jn.20:19)
- Rv.3:20 – Jesus never enters or remains where He is not welcome.

Rv.3:20, **amazing love**

- He does not wait from afar for us to come to Him; He stands at the door and knocks.
- The eternal King comes from His throne (21) to ask a beggar (17) to receive Him.

Rv.3:20, **amazing fellowship**

- This dining together is not postponed until we reach heaven.
- Ep.1³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ.
- 1 Jn.2²⁴ Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.

Rv.3:20, **amazing response**

- Christians at Laodicea had shut Lord out, and, as of this writing, would not let Him in.

I. The door that shuts the Lord in

II. The door that shuts the Lord out

III. The door that shuts
man in – preparation

Gen.6:16; 7:16

- God shut Noah and family in the ark, saving them from Flood.
- Why were *they* inside and *others* outside?

Preparation

- Hb.11:7
- 1 Pt.3:20-21

Amos 4:12

- Two ways to meet God –
 1. In judgment
 2. In salvation
- Context: chain of indictments (Am.4:6-11)
 - Ends with *therefore* – (v.12) – formal verdict of judgment
 - Rv.3:3

I. The door that shuts the Lord in

II. The door that shuts the Lord out

III. The door that shuts man in

IV. The door that shuts
man out – negligence

Gen.7:21

- What kept people off the ark? Negligence.
- Mt.24:37-41, preoccupied with other things.
 - Mt.25:34...41
 - Prepare
 - Some things we must do for ourselves

Luke 13:25

- When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open for us,' and He will answer and say to you, 'I do not know you, where you are from.'
- "Four things cannot come back – the spoken word ... the sped arrow ... time past ... and the neglected opportunity"