

# MORE

## John 10:7-10

<sup>7</sup> Therefore Jesus said again, “I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep.

<sup>8</sup> All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup> I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

<sup>7</sup> Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. <sup>9</sup> I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to

**kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.**

## **M.O.R.E.**

Our passage of Scripture is a familiar passage of scripture.

Verse 10, which is the focus of this series, has been used by pastors to remind us of the temporal as well as eternal benefits of being in Christ.

For us living today, we may struggle grasping how Christ would call Himself “the gate” or “the door” depending upon your version.

Yet, it is easily grasped if you remember that in those days sheep and wool stealing was a common issue.

As a result, shepherds were often required to sleep with the sheep while the sheep were in their pens.

The pens were typically enclosed stonewalls with an opening.

At night, the shepherd would sleep at the entrance of the enclosure.

Hence, when Jesus says He is the gate, He is in essence saying that He is in the entrance of the gate,

And that no one can come in or out without His permission.

He then says that those who came before Him were thieves and robbers.

This image is made complete when you look at verse 1 where He says,

**...the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs by some other way, is a thief and a robber. John 10:1**

So, when we get to our key verse, the Lord tells us,

**The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. John 10:10**

The word translated by the NIV as “to the full”, περισσός,

Means “beyond the regular number or size”.

This is one of those instances where the translators of the NIV are attempting to interpret what Christ meant.

A literal translation of the passage is,

I have come in order for them to have life and to have it beyond the normal amount.

In short, the KJV actually got it right.

**I have come that they might have life and have it more abundantly.**

As I contemplated this on my world tour, it dawned on me,

**God wants us to have more life.**

There are a couple things we need to embrace regarding this:

**1. Life apart from Christ is still life.**

Many preachers will tell us that there is no life without Jesus.

That is simply not true.

We mistaken the spiritual significance of the life we have in Christ and use it to discount the reality of the life that folks have without Him.

I will attest that life without Christ does not compare to life with Christ.

However, to infer that without Christ there is no living flies in the face of reality.

People live lives without Him.

Even though those lives are shallow and unfulfilling,

They are lives nonetheless.

The world gives life.

**2. There are factions that are bent towards stealing, killing and destroying.**

In this instance, what are they stealing?

What Christ contrasts that He gives: life.

Who are these factions?

Some would say Satan.

That actually is incorrect because nowhere in the context is he referenced.

On the contrary, the context is the Pharisees response to the man healed of blindness from his youth.

This man was kicked out of the synagogue because he refused to speak ill of Jesus on account of the miracle He had done.

Christ in speaking of their actions, is actually calling the Pharisees first blind in John 9:39-41,

Then He calls them thieves and robbers and hired hands in John 10:1-18.

He is saying there are teachings that will steal, kill and destroy your life.

There are doctrines that will look like life,

Will come from folks who appear to be speaking life into your life,

But in reality those teachings take life instead of giving it.

- 3. The final point is that only in Christ can we find this life that God has in store for us.**

Jesus said,

**I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. John 10:9**

What is the saved that He is referencing?

By context, it is saved from the thieves and the robbers.

Only when you are in Christ,

Know and understand what He has for you,



Can you ever hope to experience the type of life that He has for you.

**And what is that life?**

**MORE.**

Christ came that we might have more.

I propose to you that we misinterpret what “more” means and end up pursuing what is LESS.

**LESS**

**L stands for “Love of self”**

This is a life where I’m at the center of all I do.

I am lauded.

This asks the question, “What’s in it for me?”

It may not be as overt as this.

Yet, I always come into the equation.

## **E stands for “Entertainment”**

This is a life that is consumed with obtaining more excitement.

This is about going through life.

This has the motto, “You only live once.”

And with that motto, we seek to do all we can to live life to the fullest.

It is about “tickling our fancy”

That means not letting others get in our way.

## **Stuff**

This is a life that is looking for accumulation.

It is defined by the pursuit of the tangible.

It is about getting things that make me feel good.

## **Senses**

This is a life that seeks to satisfy my impulses.

It is about gratifying my senses.

I would propose to you that these give LESS life.

When we live our lives to pursue these things, then our lives are less fulfilling and less Christ honoring.

These are not the life that God gives.

For the Bible says,

**For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. 1 John 2:16**

The tragedy of this life is that it is indeed  
LESS

For John goes on to say:

**The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever. 1 John 2:17**

Christ declared that He has come that we might have more.

What does “more” mean?

Over the course of the next four weeks I want to define what “more” means:

**M.O.R.E.**

## **M stands for Meaning**

Why am I here?

Why did God create me?

What am I uniquely equipped to do?

## **O stands for Opportunities**

What I should be pursuing?

How can I experience a better life?

## **R stands for Relationships**

Who am I experiencing life with?

## **E stands for Ethics**

What are my values?

What is important to me?

**Christ came to define what more life should look like.**

And before you can have more you need to do three things:

- 1. You need to recognize that the life you are currently living is not the best life that Christ has for you.**

I was speaking with someone here the other day and they told me that their life is being changed.

They have someone in their life that they are searching the scriptures together,

Praying together,

And seeking God's will together.

They told me that this was a funny feeling that they have never felt before.

They are experiencing the life that Christ gives.

**God wants to show you He has more for you.**

You cannot experience the life that Christ has for you unless you first admit that how you are living is not enough for you.

You must be dissatisfied with what you have.

The Bible declares,

**I place before you life and death; choose life.**

Far too often we believe that where we are is where we will end up.

Yet, the Word of God declares,

**You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Psalm 16:11**

God wants us to be dissatisfied with our lives.

He wants us to say enough is enough.

I don't know about you but I'm tired of the same old same old.

I want a fresh start.

I want a new life.

I want life more abundantly.

**2. You must be able to see yourself living beyond the boundaries of today.**

You must be able to grasp what life can be like without your present encumbrances.



Our biggest problem is that we can't imagine what life would be like if we changed.

What does abundant life look like?

**God wants to change your perspective on living.**

He wants to change your view of what it means to live.

Because we can't imagine what life is without the baggage,

We believe that life can't exist without the baggage.

Yet God says He has more life for us.

The Bible declares,

**For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and**

**not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11**

God wants us to walk into our future and live abundant lives.

The Bible declares,

**Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43:19**

God is right now doing a new thing in your life.

Yet, this new thing is a thing formed and fashioned in faith,

**We walk by faith and not by sight.**

You have to, by faith, see what God is doing.

You have to trust it even though it hasn't happened yet.

- 3. You have to be willing to let go of the life you have in order to get the life Christ has for you.**

Something has to die in your life if you want more from Jesus.

How many of you know that you can't hold on to this life if you want the life that Christ has for you.

We want to hold on to what we have, afraid to let go and experience what God has for us.

**God wants to transform your now.**

He wants to change what now looks like for you.

Our biggest challenge is that we want to hold on to what we have,

Afraid that what we will get will not be better.

Well, I've got news for you.

You can't put new wine into old wineskins.

You've got to let go and let God come in and do a new thing.

The only way that can happen is if something dies.

New life springs forth from death.

That's why the Bible says,

**If any man be in Christ he is a new creation...**

I don't know about you, but I want what God has for me.

**I must decrease that He might increase...**

**...those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.**

**I am crucified with Christ...**

In closing,

Over the next four weeks we will answer the question as to

**What does more look like?**

**God wants more for us.**

He wants our lives to

Have Meaning

Opportunities

Relationships

Ethics.

He wants more for us.

It begins first with us,

Not being satisfied.

Seeing life beyond where we are

Us willing to sacrifice to get there.

**...looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:2**