

BE TRANSFORMED THROUGH THE RED DOOR

Transformation in Jesus impacts people to advance in life beyond the physical world.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ Jesus is the Good Shepherd.
- ❖ At the beginning of John 10, Jesus explains His duty as the Good Shepherd to remain at the gate of the sheep pen. Jesus opens the gate to the sheep that listen to Him. He knows the sheep and His sheep know His voice.
- ❖ The sheep pen represents His home/family. The sheep represent people. Jesus is the gatekeeper/door who determines who goes in and out of the sheep pen.
- ❖ The meaning of this illustration is that whoever enters through Jesus will be saved from eternal death (John 14:6), but also saved from the lies of this world.
- ❖ When people come through Jesus, they "will go...out and find pasture" (Jn. 10:9); they will live a life full of promise: eternal life. Jesus promises a better, more hopeful situation that goes beyond the physical world.
- ❖ The historical concept of a 'red door' in various societies symbolizes protection, security, hospitality, health, wealth, and a place of refuge.
- ❖ Red doors are also seen in the Bible. The Israelites sacrificed a lamb and painted the blood of the lamb on the top and sides of the doorframe to receive protection from God over their households against the angel of death (Exodus 12:13, 23).
- ❖ Today, the red door symbolizes the blood and life of Jesus Christ that was shed for our sins. The red door reminds us that Jesus is in our neighbourhood, always extending an invitation for us to come in and be saved from the penalty of our sins (Jn. 3:16).
- ❖ Jesus is the Door, and He is in our neighbourhood to transform us. He says, "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me" (Revelation 3:20).
- ❖ All who answer Jesus' call will be saved and restored, and will establish an eternal relationship with God.
- ❖ Let's look at two examples in the Bible of how Jesus transformed people, communities and nations for eternity.

Paul & Ananias – Acts 9:1-19

- ❖ Saul (later named Paul) defended the Jewish religion by persecuting Christians. He was transformed while on his way to Damascus to persecute more of them. Paul met, by His light and His voice, the risen Jesus of Nazareth. Simultaneously, Jesus visited Ananias in a vision, instructing him to go and pray for Paul to be healed.
- ❖ Both Paul and Ananias had to surrender their knowledge and concerns to Jesus in order for transformation to take place.
- ❖ Paul was filled with the Holy Spirit and was baptized. He came to understand that Jesus was truly the Messiah.

KEY SCRIPTURE: John 10:7-10, 14-16 (NIV)

- ❖ Paul left a legacy of conversion and great purpose: from blindness to clarity of vision; persecutor of Christians to minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Ananias is connected to Paul's transformation and leaves a legacy of being part of a revolution that changed the trajectory of peoples' lives for eternity.

Philip & Ethiopian Eunuch: Acts 8:26-40

- ❖ Philip brought the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Ethiopian eunuch, who was on his way home from Jerusalem. The Ethiopian was baptized in Jesus' name before travelling back to Ethiopia.
- ❖ The gospel was brought to Ethiopia through that eunuch, one of the first African converts.
- ❖ Jesus left a mark that redeemed humanity. That mark is His life, which is symbolized by His blood. Anyone who believes that Jesus is God enters into His grace to be transformed.
- ❖ It is because of God's great love that we are transformed to advance to greater living for eternity. We are saved by grace, and we have a responsibility to listen to the promptings of Jesus Christ and to walk in the good works that God has prepared for us to do (Ephesians 2:4-10).
- ❖ We must be compelled by God's love to love Him and His people.
- ❖ Both Christians (Romans 12:1-2) and non-Christians (Rom. 8:29) are called to be transformed in Jesus by obeying His voice and seeking after His will (Matthew 6:33).
- ❖ We are called to make disciples (Matt. 28: 19-20, Eph. 2:10), impacting people to advance beyond this world.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Using scripture, how would you explain that Jesus "determines who goes in and out of the sheep pen"?
2. What might cause some "sheep" to hear/recognize/respond to Jesus' voice, and others not to?
3. God's sheep are described as "going out and finding pasture." What does this involve (from lesson notes and supporting scriptures)?
4. What kind(s) of transformation should one expect to see/experience in the life of someone who has surrendered to God?

PRAYER TIME

Lord Jesus, thank You for transforming us and for impacting our lives so that our impact goes beyond this physical world.

Start-up: Have you ever done a "makeover" or "upcycled" an item to create something better/more pleasing? If so, describe what you did.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, APRIL 17, 2022

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) ☁️ (Think about)

! (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↔️ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline