THE DOOR WAS SHUT

Category: Hope for the Future

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Introduction:

1. Just before I married Lee, being in the Air Force, I was required to have pre-marital counseling.
   a. The Air Force chaplain took delight in shutting the door on a man who was a few seconds late.
   b. There are some people who have fun in being merciless to others.

2. We are thankful that our God is a God of mercy, and takes no delight in the door being shut on anyone. In spite of the fact that God desires to be merciful unto man, there is coming a time when the door to God’s mercy will be shut. That is the teaching found in the Parable of the Ten Virgins, Matthew 25:1-13. (The virgins in this parable are not brides, but bridesmaids.)
   a. The parable is one that warns us to be ready and cautions us against carelessness.
   b. God delights in no one being shut out. Yet, when men neglect their salvation they place themselves at great risk, Hebrews 2:3. Prepare now, because someday the door will be closed!

3. But when that door closes, not everything that happens is bad! There are some good things that will be a blessing to God’s people who are ready for that day. This is a message of hope and comfort!

The Lesson:

I. The door will be shut to the devil’s influence.
   A. We are Christians. We live a life that is under assault of Satan, 1 Peter 5:8.
      1. Many of the problems and hindrances we face in our present life are due to the activity of the devil. 1 Thessalonians 2:18.
      2. Only God knows and understands the extent of Satan’s influence in sabotaging our lives.
   B. Satan is the enemy of all that is good, Luke 8:11-12; Matthew 13:37-39. Whatever influence Satan may have ends when the door is shut. That being true, there are some other things that follow...

II. The door will be shut to trials and temptation.
   A. Some Christians may have heavier burdens than others, but all—new convert or old—have the burden of trials and temptations, 1 Peter 1:4-7. No one is exempt. But also note that the time of trial is limited, “…for a little while…”

III. The door will be shut to sin and wickedness.
   A. We will be no more subject to sin. It is in this life only that we have to worry about sin, and its influence on us, Luke 21:33-34. The day is coming when the cares of this life will be no more.
   B. We will no longer live in a world plagued, marked and stained by sin. But today, we are much like Lot who was distressed by the evil all around him, 2 Peter 2:6-8. Do you ever feel like Lot felt? God has a better place for His people.
IV. The door will be shut to evil, unjust men.
   A. Have you ever had to suffer unjust, evil treatment from wicked men? Maybe you have been the victim of crime, slander or injustice. But there will be no more crime once that door is closed. The unjust, slanderers and criminals will be locked out and locked up, Revelation 22:14-15.
   B. When the door is shut, no one will ever persecute you again or ever hate you again. There will be no prejudice, no thievery, no mockery, no name calling, and no cheating. Why not? Because the wicked, evil and unjust men will be cast into hell, Psalm 9:17.

V. The door will be shut to all labor and toil.
   A. There is rest for the weary. Some of you have labored long at jobs, maybe being underpaid. Some have labored long and hard in the kingdom. There is rest for the weary, Revelation 14:13; Hebrews 4:9-11. Don’t quit until that door is shut. God will remember, Hebrews 6:10.
   B. Our time of toil is limited. There is rest for the people of God. Don’t quit before it’s quitting time, 1 Corinthians 15:58. Now is the time of work, Galatians 6:9; John 9:4. There is a time coming when there will be no more toil, exertion or travail.

VI. The door will be shut to suffering and death.
   A. It is in this life only that we have to endure pain and illness. It is the general lot of humanity to suffer pain and illness in the body, Job 2:7-8; 14:1-2. But suffering comes to an end when the door is shut.
   B. The suffering that comes with the aging process will end, Genesis 18:11; Ecclesiastes 12:1ff.
   C. Most of all, death will be no more, 1 Corinthians 15:25-26; 53-55. All the heartache and pain that death brings to us will be no more. It is difficult to envision, but it is true.

Conclusion:
1. The shutting of the door will be a good thing for God’s children.
   a. In a practical sense, the shutting of the door can take place at death, or at the second coming of Christ. In either case, life on this earth for us is brought to an end.
   b. Because death closes the door to evil things, death can be spoken of as a good thing for the people of God, Revelation 14:13.
2. On the other hand, it can and will be terrible for those who are unprepared, 1 Corinthians 15:56.
3. "Have you counted the cost...the door of his mercy is open to you."
   a. When that door is shut, there will be no more church services.
   b. There will be no more Bible studies to try to win people to Jesus.
   c. The very last invitation song will have been sung.
   d. The last prayer that others prayed for you and your salvation will have been prayed.
   e. Your last opportunity to get right with God will have passed.
   f. Some people don't like these things now. The day will come when they will no more have to endure these things. The door will be shut! On which side of the door will you be?