



Riverlife
BAPTIST CHURCH



PART 4 THE DOOR

SUMMARY

Open doors mean different things to different people... but an open door is an invitation.

As we'll discover through this week's teaching, there was an invitation to mystery and wonder when the first followers of Jesus discovered the open door to His tomb...

KEY PASSAGES

Matthew 28:1-8

Luke 24:1-10

SERMON MOMENT



<https://youtu.be/HkxBFXIYxn4>



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NOTES

That Easter Sunday morning, the women were presented with an open door, an empty tomb, suddenly the sorrow of the Stone – the finality of death, the death of their hopes – was suddenly brought into question...

What does this door mean?

To the disciples of Jesus, the open door meant a rebirth of wonder, of possibility, of life being restored – of resurrection!

Jesus and the Holy Spirit's Power

Jesus says that we will have access to the same source of supernatural power that Jesus had, namely, the Holy Spirit (John 14:12).

Jesus was the only individual who ever existed as 100 percent God and 100 percent human. Although Jesus was never without all the attributes of God, He voluntarily gave up the use of these attributes during His incarnation. He did all the supernatural works through the Holy Spirit (Acts 10:38).

As believers and disciples of Christ, we have His Spirit dwelling inside us, and because of this, we have the same mission He did (Luke 4:18-19). We also have His anointing. If Jesus needed the anointing of His Father in order to carry out His mission, how much more do we need it?

He's Not Here

A central belief of our Christian faith (arguably the most significant) is that Jesus died, was buried, and was raised to life in accordance with the Scriptures (see Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

This was part of the plan! The open door was part of God's reconciling work in this world.

God was re-opening the way to have relationship with us. There was a door opened to make a way back into relationship. And in case you're not getting it, there's more!



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In Matthew's account of the Crucifixion (Matthew 27:50-54):

- Firstly, Jesus gives up His spirit, in accordance with scriptures (John 10:17-18)
- Secondly, the temple curtain was torn in two.
- Thirdly, a whole pile of tombs opened up and people who loved God, who'd already died, started to walk around.

Another door is opened; more tombs; the final door of death, it seems, was opened as well...

Jesus removed all doubt at all when he referred to himself AS the door (John 10:9-10)

But, this all begs the question – what is this open door giving us access to?

Mixing Metaphors

As we can see, the open door offers us life: life eternal, life abundant, life with God in a restored relationship.

Jesus used a parable to illustrate this, that to mean kind of paints the picture of the welcoming in through the open door!

Matthew 22:1-10 (ESV)

Jesus has opened up the way to all who would come to His feast, the King's wedding feast – here as a metaphor for the final culmination of all things, when God sets everything right.

I wonder if the women at the tomb had any inkling that it was the open door to the wedding feast of the King? That King Jesus is inviting all people into a place of love and redemption through this open door.

Lukewarm Responses

There's a recurring motif of doors in Revelation as well.

The open door is a door of invitation, of welcoming, but its more than that...

John records the words of Jesus in Revelation 3, to the Laodicean church (Revelation 3:15-20).



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This door is a door we have control over – the door to our lives.

This message is addressed to those who follow Jesus, but have become settled, stagnant, still in their faith life. Those of us that have forgotten that we're poor in Spirit. Maybe those of us that hear the good news that Jesus is the door, and that everyone is invited to the wedding, but we know, we're going, but there's just a lot going on now...

An open door to a believer is one of restoration, of re-igniting the fire in our lives to be in a relationship with the King!

I wonder if those first followers at the tomb could have imagined a whole church of people who knew Jesus, who knew his presence, but needed an open door to their own hearts again, to feel the fire of passion and the love of God again?

Sent Ones

The last door that I want to talk about is also in Revelation: Revelation 3:7-13

This is the most powerful door for a church who, once we've entered the door of welcoming, opened the door to restoring the fire of our love for God, are ready to be about God's business.

This is the door to calling and mission – to be about God's kingdom work, with HIS power and HIS presence.

When we see the open door of the tomb, we are invited to remember the open door of calling, of being about God's work in God's world, to see God's glory in the earth!

I wonder if Mary and Joanna and Jesus' mother could have imagined that an open tomb would lead to a world transformed, to the dead being raised, to the spiritually dead and imprisoned finding life and deliverance, to bodies and minds and hearts healed, to the good news of their Lord going out, and of the mighty harvest of people coming into the loving embrace of Father God?

I don't know which door is open to you today – but there is a door open for each one of us.

- If you need to respond to the open door of invitation – to come to be a part of Jesus' family today – then come!
- If you need to let Jesus back in to a dry and dusty life, full of self-dependence and lack, then come!
- If you want to be filled and step into the open door of calling that God gives us – then come!



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you think is the main difference between the lukewarm believers in Revelation 3:15-20 and the faithful church in Revelation 3:7-13?

Apply it: Are there any areas in your own faith journey where you might be lukewarm, and what steps can you take to embrace the open door of mission and commitment to God's work?

2. What is the significance of the wedding feast parable in Matthew 22:1-10 in relation to the open-door metaphor?

Apply it: Who can you invite to this open door in your own life?

3. What do you think Jesus means when He refers to Himself as the door in John 10:9-10?

Apply it: How can you ensure that you are entering through Jesus, the door, in your daily life and decision-making?

4. Why is the tearing of the temple curtain significant in representing an open door?

Apply it: How can you apply the meaning of this open door to your personal relationship with God? What does that access mean to you and how you live your daily life?

5. How does the open door to Jesus' tomb represent the restoration of life and a rebirth of wonder?

Apply It: In your life, what are some examples of open doors that have brought about wonder, restoration, and new possibilities? What does responding to God's calling look like for you?