

Keys

What kind of keys have you? And how many? The number of keys we have tells much about our lives, the time of life we are in, and even our occupation. Some people have one or two. A night watchman has a whole ring of many keys. Others, I suppose, have none, and no locks to open or close.

Take a look at your key ring, and see what it tells about your life. Is it complicated? Is it very simple?

Are there keys to doors or locks in different towns, states, or countries? Your key ring will tell many stories about you and the places you go and value.

There are all kinds of keys, but we as Christians need only one. Or one set. When Jesus says to his disciples, "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven," he changes their lives. He gives them a different, higher priority.

He gave Peter the keys of the kingdom, which meant in its most basic form that he was now able to tell folks how to unlock the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven. He was now able to show people how to believe in Jesus Christ as Savior and go to heaven.

The scripture was written to show and give us those same keys. Herein lies the lesson for today, as the old preachers used to say.

There are different usages for the keys to the kingdom of heaven.

Obviously their first use to open the doors of heaven for us. It is very important for us to realize that the doors of heaven have been opened up to us by God's action in Jesus Christ. The key, to coin a phrase, is to use them. We must not stand there with the doors unlocked, wide open, and not go through them.

Millions of people are in just that spot. They know that Christ has saved them. They know about heaven and hell. But they have not entered into a relationship with God which those keys make possible.

It takes walking through the doors and meeting God who has unlocked them for us to be a Christian. God listens. God speaks. God loves. God is loved. This distinction is key, as we begin to experience what it means to be an unlocked Christian.

The second use of those keys is to share them with others. So often Christians just use the keys to the kingdom of heaven one time, to find faith for themselves. Those keys are meant to be used every day, all day long. They will never wear out. In fact they become better and better with usage.

Think of a person who needs faith. Decide whether you are the one who can share the keys of the kingdom with them. There are a set number of people whom God has determined that only you have the right combination of keys for them to come to faith. If we do it, they have the chance to believe. If we do not, they may not.

The third use for the keys of the kingdom is to unlock doors on a daily basis.

In Acts chapter 5 the disciples are locked up in prison for preaching the gospel. As it happened, an angel came and opened the doors of the prison and led them out. When the officials went to find them, they found the guards standing at the gate, the doors securely locked, but no disciples. They were now standing in the marketplace proclaiming the gospel.

God will unlock doors for us which we don't even have the key. God will open wonderful doors we never knew existed. Doors of faith. Doors of love. Doors which reveal our purpose in life which is greater than we ever could have thought. Doors which show courage where there was doubt. Doors of love where there was hate.

You see, Jesus is himself the key, and the door. He is the way the truth and the life. No one comes to the father except by him.

And he says, "I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture."

The key to everything is a simple word. Jesus. We can come up with many great theological principles. We can try to complicate faith at every turn. Or we can believe in Jesus. We can put our trust in Jesus. We can find the key which opens every door and is the door himself. We can be handed the keys to the kingdom and use them for miraculous moments.

It all comes back to Jesus. Trust in him completely. There will be no door which will not open, no lock which cannot be unlocked.