

Daily Devotion For June 16, 2021

⁹ I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved.^[a] They will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰ 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 10:9-10

Yesterday, the State of California “reopened”. I watched on the news how places such as Disneyland, The Santa Cruz Boardwalk, restaurants, and other business were now open without the need of wearing facemasks or social distancing. For over a year now, people have been asking the question, “When will we reopen?, What will it take? How will we do it? What will happen when we do reopen? Questions about reopening have been on everyone’s mind. Some are in favor and some are against it.

In John 10, Jesus says that He is the gate. The gate that the sheep go in and out of. On the inside of the gate is shelter, protection, and safety and on the outside green pastures, nourishment, and abundant life.

Whose voice do you listen to and trust about reopening? Political leaders? Medical experts? The press? Social media? Whose lead do you follow? And where and how does the Jesus Gate fit in all that for you?

As we talk about reopening, let us choose an abundant life over an economic life. May we also talk about reopening our hearts, eyes, and lives to Jesus. Jesus said that he came as a gate to open our lives to an abundant way of living.

Thought For Today: What does reopening your life to Jesus mean to you? Where is your life abundant? The abundant life is not about quantity, wealth, success, approval, popularity, security, being number one, or any of the other things we often think it is. The abundant life is about faith, hope and love. It is about goodness, grace and mercy. It is also about opening our lives to others to help them know the abundant life that Jesus offers. What gates do you need to reopen?

Today’s Prayer Focus: Pray that you would listen to the voice of the Good Shepherd as we reopen. Pray that you would be open to God’s guidance to change us, our relationships, our community, and world.