

## **CLOSING THE DOOR ON JESUS**

**John 20:19**

**(Not totally original with me)**

**Introduction:** Everyone remembers that wonderful Sunday when Jesus came out of the tomb, He had indeed risen just as He said He would, however it took a while for His followers to believe that what they were hearing was actually true. Jesus had appeared to some of the women, a couple of men on their way home, then to Peter but still there were emotions of doubt and questions. The disciples had gathered in a place and had locked the doors and shut the windows for fear of the Jews and suddenly Jesus stood in their midst. I wonder how many people have closed doors and shut windows of their lives to Jesus?

### **I. SOMETIMES WE UNTHINKINGLY CLOSE THE DOORS ON JESUS**

1. The disciples never gave it a thought that Jesus might want in for they would never deliberately, on purpose shut Jesus out. They had closed the doors and windows in fear of the Jews.
  - Unthinkingly, Jesus' disciples closed the doors on Jesus.
  
2. We, too, close the doors on Jesus, not thinking, not meaning to exclude Him.
  - We never dream that some things we do raise barriers, close doors to Jesus.
  - In reflection of our lives, we can now see some things, but at that time, we never noticed that our actions closed the doors, raised barriers on Jesus.
  - We often act as did the disciples that Sunday evening, not thinking about keeping Jesus out, but for entirely other reasons, we do things that close Jesus out of our lives.
  
3. Sometimes friends that we have and choices that we make can shut the door on Jesus.
  - How many lives have been influenced, even ruined by so called "friends?" It is not always one's enemies that need to be feared, but one's "friends." Often joining friends in certain activities closes the door to Jesus.
  - Often we make choices in how we want to live, and we choose such a lifestyle that the door to Jesus is closed.
  
4. Some people just don't take things seriously and that can close the door to Jesus.
  - There are some who don't have "a serious bone in their body" and are always joking or laughing or passing off lightly even the most serious things in life.
  - They close the door on reverent feelings, on devoutness, on purity, on being serious and so unthinkingly, they also close the door on Jesus.

### **II. THANKFULLY, CLOSING THE DOOR TO JESUS DOESN'T TURN HIM AWAY**

1. Thinking again of the disciples on that Sunday night who were hiding behind closed, locked doors, Jesus found His way in, He suddenly appeared in their midst. He didn't need the door.
  - Other doors had been shut to Jesus but He got in anyhow.
    - The Gadarene demoniac in the tombs, filled with demons, but Jesus got in and made the demons flee for example.

2. Those who gave Jesus so much trouble were His own "countrymen," the religious Jews. They tried every way they could to close the door to Jesus and keep Him out.
  - They refused to recognize Him, allowed Him no acceptance.
  - They mocked and criticized Him, tried to discredit His name and reputation.
  - They thought they had closed the door to Jesus when they killed Him.
3. The door may be shut to Jesus from YOUR side, but Jesus can still get to you.
  - No matter what besets, troubles or that one has done even years ago, like memories that come to mind which cannot be shut out, so it is with the Lord Jesus.
  - Like memories, Jesus is always there, and sooner or later He will appear in one's life.
4. It is impossible to get away from Jesus.
  - Where can one go that Jesus is not already there?
  - Jesus is everywhere, sees everything, hears everything, knows everything.
  - Life is so filled with Jesus that it is impossible to get away from Him.
5. Sometimes Jesus is met through a sincere Christian.
  - There are some Christians who are more than just "talk." They actually live what they believe.
  - Being around such a Christian causes one to sense that Jesus is there. Even the most disgusting of people can sense the presence of Jesus and respect is given to that Christian.
6. Who has not met Jesus in times of sorrow?
  - In dark, tragic times of life, the nearness of Jesus is sensed even by those who never read God's Word very much or attended worship services very often, but often there is someone who comes to console who lives what he/she believes and the presence of Jesus is felt. Somehow Jesus makes His way through all the barriers and closed doors of one's life and makes His presence known. How comforting.

## **CONCLUSION:**

1. Countless people have been living their lives with a closed door to Jesus.
  - Some have sinned greatly and fear what Jesus might do.
  - Some have lived an empty, selfish life of no faith, cold and indifferent.
  - Some have just been too "busy" to think about Jesus for the present time.
2. No one is in a hopeless situation, there is no barrier, no closed door that can keep Jesus out for Jesus loves every person equally and nothing can hold Him back or keep Him from wanting and trying to bring you peace, hope, salvation and an eternal life with Him in Heaven.
3. A person has but to cry out to Jesus, "Jesus, Son of God, come into my heart!" Though till that moment all the doors have been shut and barriers have been up, Jesus will be there.