

Sermon Series: The Hard Sayings of Jesus
Sermon Title: Opened and Closed Doors
Sermon Text: Matthew 16:13-20, 18:15-18

A pet peeve is something that a person finds especially annoying!

One of my pet peeves is when doors, that should be closed, are left open!

I equally get annoyed when doors that should be open, are closed & locked!

Our “**Hard Sayings of Jesus**” today are all about opening and closing doors! Jesus tells us, as the Church, to do both! But do we know the difference?

If I were to ask you who the first Christian was, the one who first walked through the door of salvation, who would you say it is? Peter

Matthew 16:13-20 – Peter’s profession about Jesus unlocked & opened the door to heaven! ***“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”***

And yet Jesus responds by strictly charging the disciples not to tell anyone! Why? Why keep this door closed? ***It was the right door, but the wrong time!***

Well, that is no longer the case. The door to heaven has not only been unlocked, it has been left wide open, and that doesn’t annoy me one bit!

Actually, what does annoy me is when we try to close this door because we are afraid of who might come through it. ***Heaven has an open-door policy!***

One of the best displays of the Church taking advantage of this open-door policy is Operation Christmas Child (OCC)! (Video)

The gospel message, Peter’s profession, is the key to heaven’s door! May we never forget what this door opens up for people in their lives, and may we do all we can to help all people walk through it!

Why even have a door if it’s meant to be left open? And why have keys to it? Because there are exceptions! ***The gospel door, though now open, will not be forever.*** And there are circumstances when it needs to be closed!

How many of us have welcome signs in our house? And how many of us close and lock our doors at night? Some of us even install additional locks!

The gospel is a door, and there are keys, because there are times when things need to be “bound” & times when things need to be “loosed”. There are times when people need to be given restricted access for the good of all!

What does all this mean? What is Jesus trying to teach us here?

In Matthew 16, it’s clear that Jesus is talking about preaching the gospel! The **H.C. # 84** helps us better understand the open-door policy of salvation.

If the door to salvation is opened through the preaching of the gospel, then it follows that to reject this gospel is to close that door!

This is the first of the functions of the keys given to Peter (and to the Church), in “opening” & “closing” the door to heaven!

But this is not the only use of the keys of the kingdom. H.C. # 83 reminds us that there are 2 functions – ***the preaching of the gospel & church discipline!***

We see the 2nd function of the keys more clearly in **Matthew 18:15-18**. ***To “bind & loose” is to “restrict & free”, through discipline and restoration.***

H.C. #85 helps us better understand this function of the keys. Church discipline is for the purpose of leading people to repentance & restoration.

Why do we put our children in their rooms, close the door, & tell them they can’t come out? Because what they did was wrong & they need to be disciplined! ***But we also don’t intend for them to stay in their room forever!***

Why do we lock the doors to our house at night? To protect against harmful intruders, and to keep our loved ones safe from harmful things outside!

Church discipline does the same thing! ***It removes what is harmful & places it outside, & keeps what’s inside safe by separating what is harmful from it!***

But when the unsafe/harmful ideas or actions of people are remedied, then the door is unlocked & opened once again. ***The order is “close” to “open.”***

The Church has been given the keys to the kingdom of heaven – preaching the gospel and Christian discipline! How are we doing at using them?

They serve 2 extremely important functions – 1) opening and 2) closing the door to heaven! What greater responsibility could be delegated to us?

We must take our job seriously because Jesus said, ***“Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” – vs. 18.***

Please be in prayer for us as a church, for your pastors & elders, for yourself. Wielding the keys is no easy task, but ***to be faithful in our calling as “the Church”, we must be door keepers.*** Always remembering the goal - salvation

Sermon Series: The Hard Sayings of Jesus
Sermon Title: Opened and Closed Doors
Sermon Text: Matthew 16:13-20, 18:15-18

A pet peeve is something that a person finds especially _____
One of my pet peeves is when doors, that should be closed, are left open!

I equally get annoyed when doors that should be open, are closed & locked!

Our “**Hard Sayings of Jesus**” today are all about opening and closing doors!
Jesus tells us, as the Church, to do both! But do we know the difference?

If I were to ask you who the first Christian was, the one who first walked
through the door of salvation, who would you say it is? _____

Matthew 16:13-20 – Peter’s profession about Jesus unlocked & opened the
door to heaven! **“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”**

And yet Jesus responds by strictly charging the disciples not to tell anyone!
Why? Why keep this door closed? It was the right door, but the _____

Well, that is no longer the case. The door to heaven has not only been
unlocked, it has been left wide open, and that doesn’t annoy me one bit!

Actually, what does annoy me is when we try to close this door because we
are afraid of who might come through it. Heaven has an _____ policy!

One of the best displays of the Church taking advantage of this open-door
policy is _____ (Video)

The gospel message, Peter’s profession, is the key to heaven’s door!
May we never forget what this door opens up for people in their lives, and
may we do all we can to help all people walk through it!

Why even have a door if it’s meant to be left open? And why have keys to
it? Because there are exceptions! The gospel door, though now open, will
_____. And there are circumstances when it needs to be closed!

How many of us have welcome signs in our house? And how many of us
close and lock our doors at night? Some of us even install additional locks!

The gospel is a door, and there are keys, because there are times when
things need to be “bound” & times when things need to be “loosed”. There
are times when people need to be given restricted access for the good of all!

What does all this mean? What is Jesus trying to teach us here?

In Matthew 16, it’s clear that Jesus is talking about preaching the gospel!
The H.C. # 84 helps us better understand the open-door policy of salvation.

If the door to salvation is opened through the preaching of the gospel, then
it follows that to _____ is to close that door!

This is the first of the functions of the keys given to Peter (and to the
Church), in “opening” & “closing” the door to heaven!

But this is not the only use of the keys of the kingdom. H.C. # 83 reminds us
that there are 2 functions – the preaching of the gospel & _____

We see the 2nd function of the keys more clearly in **Matthew 18:15-18**.
To “bind & loose” is to _____, through discipline and restoration.

H.C. #85 helps us better understand this function of the keys. Church
discipline is for the purpose of leading people to repentance & restoration.

Why do we put our children in their rooms, close the door, & tell them they
can’t come out? Because what they did was wrong & they need to be
disciplined! But we also don’t intend for them to stay in their room _____

Why do we lock the doors to our house at night? To protect against harmful
intruders, and to keep our loved ones safe from harmful things outside!

Church discipline does the same thing! It removes what is harmful & places
it _____ & keeps what’s inside safe by separating what is harmful from it!

But when the unsafe/harmful ideas or actions of people are remedied, then
the door is unlocked & opened once again. The order is _____ to _____

The Church has been given the keys to the kingdom of heaven – preaching
the gospel and Christian discipline! How are we doing at using them?

They serve 2 extremely important functions – 1) opening and 2) closing the
door to heaven! What greater responsibility could be delegated to us?

We must take our job seriously because Jesus said, **“Whatever you bind on
earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be
loosed in heaven.” – vs. 18.**

Please be in prayer for us as a church, for your pastors & elders, for yourself.
Wielding the keys is no easy task, but to be faithful in our calling as “the
Church”, we must be _____ Always remembering the goal - salvation