

Partners In Courage, November, 2015

Be A Door-Opener For God

Sermon by Wes Daughenbaugh

INTRODUCTION: *What if God could not get into a situation unless someone opened a door for Him? Is that possible? Yes! God waits to be invited into our situations. Without a person opening a door for him in prayer, Jesus stands outside and knocks, politely offering his help, but not forcing it on anyone. This message is about how to be the person who regularly opens doors for God.*

1. WE HAVE MISSUNDERSTOOD REVELATIONS 3:20

This verse is one I've always used in the context of soul-winning and making altar calls for people to come to Christ. Jesus said, **"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him and he with me,"** (Rev. 3:20 NIV). It is true that Jesus waits to be received into the human heart. He does knock on the doors of human hearts and waits to be invited in. The people who regularly EAT in your house are the people who LIVE in your house. So I've always stressed that Jesus is saying that if we open our hearts to receive him as Savior, he will come into our hearts and set up his residency. He will live inside of us. THAT IS TRUE.

However, there is another meaning to this verse that most of us have missed. When Jesus said, **"Behold I stand at the door and knock"** he didn't say "the door of your heart." He just said, "Behold, I stand at the door." This "door" can be the door for him to enter into a SITUATION. He often stands at the door and knocks—wanting to come into our situations to help us. But he doesn't automatically invade our situations and force his help upon us. He waits for the invitation of prayer, offered in faith, that willingly invites him to COME IN with all his wisdom and power to fix that situation. If we do not open the door in faith-filled prayer, he stands outside the situation knocking, hoping we will open the door.

What does it mean, **"I will come in and eat with him and he with me"**? As this verse applies to situations, it means that when you invite Jesus to come into the situation and you open a door for him in prayer, *you and he are going to feast together on Jesus' special kind of food.*

Jesus said, **"I have food to eat that you know nothing about,"** (John 4:32). Then he said, **"My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work,"** (John 4:34). When we invite Jesus to come into the situations we are praying about and he does come in, there is a special feasting in the Spirit. Together, you and Jesus "feast" in the satisfaction and pleasure of doing the Father's will together and getting it done! This feasting is the delight, the peace, the joy, and the celebration that occurs in the spirit realm when we open a door for Jesus by prayer or obedience to His call. Then the will of the Father gets done on earth as it is in heaven. When the Father's will is done, there is feasting in the spirit realm—a spiritual pleasure and satisfaction reserved for those who are door openers for God! We also open a door if we move in obedience to his call.

So you see, the meaning of Revelation 3:20 is mainly lost on almost all Christians. They think, "I opened the door to Jesus when I received him into my heart. So that verse doesn't apply to me today. He cannot be outside knocking if I've already invited him into my heart." But Jesus is outside of your situation, wanting to get in and help you receive a miraculous answer to prayer. He wants to come into the situation and do the Father's will, as it is done in heaven. So that verse DOES apply to you and me—on a daily basis. At any time of the day or night Jesus might KNOCK, or call to us to go into prayer and open a door for him to come through.

2. LIKEWISE, WE HAVE MISUNDERSTOOD LUKE 12:35-48.

Your Bible probably has a sub-title over this section that says **Watchfulness** because the whole subject of these verses is watchfulness. However, we tend to think that these verses are just about being ready for the Second Coming of Christ. Just as Revelation 3:20 has been thought of as only applying to

salvation, this portion of scripture has been understood to be only about living ready for the Rapture of the church.

Let's examine these verses and you will find that they also refer to being dressed and ready for prayer so that we can open a door to God in prayer at any time of the day or night.

Jesus told his disciples, **“Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like men waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. I tell you the truth, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the second or third watch of the night. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, because the son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him”** (Luke 12:35-40).

Notice, Jesus didn't say, “Be dressed and ready to evacuate. Have your bags packed. Be ready to jump in the heavenly chariot that comes to pick you up.” NO. he said, “Be dressed and ready for SERVICE.” I'm sure that these verses are telling us to live ready for the rapture of the saints when Jesus will come to take us unto himself. However, there is another meaning that applies to every day that we live.

You see, Jesus can come to us at any hour of the day or night and knock, waiting to be invited into our SITUATIONS by prayer. We are to be door-openers for God! When he comes and knocks, wanting to come into our situations and help mankind in a big way, he knocks and waits for his servants to open the door in prayer or obedience to his call. We need to be dressed spiritually for this—dressed for service, so that if the Lord knocks by giving an urge to pray or if we get some emergency prayer request we are ready to pray and get an answer—by opening a door for God. We must always be ready to get an answer to prayer—because Jesus will come to us, asking us to pray, when we least expect it. We must always be ready to immediately prioritize his call to prayer. It would be sad if the servants heard him knocking and said, “Wait till morning. I'm trying to get some sleep.” What if they said, “Wait till I'm done cooking supper for the family.” What if they said, “I'll pray as soon as I get these bills paid.” If you are going to be a door-opener for God you have to be ready to JUMP up and open the door in prayer. You have to be ready to DROP EVERYTHING and invite Jesus into the situation, regardless of how impossible it looks!

3. YOU CANNOT BRING GOD MASSIVE GLORY UNLESS YOU OPEN DOORS FOR GOD.

In my second year of Bible College the Holy Spirit showed me that the heart motivation of Jesus was to bring glory to the Father. Then he quizzed me for about a year, always asking me WHY I wanted to sing, or WHY I wanted to sing a song I had written instead of one in the Hymn book. After a year of repenting for wrong motives the desire to glorify God had taken over my life.

After years in the ministry my prayer changed. Instead of praying, “Oh God, please use me to bring you glory” my prayer became, “Dear Lord, please use me to bring you MASSIVE glory, somehow.”

I prayed that prayer for several years and one night in a prayer meeting God communicated to me. I call this receiving a FAX from God because it was as if truth was coming into my spirit faster than I could put it into words. The understanding was printed on my heart, and then I had to read the words. Here's what God said to me: “The desire to bring me MASSIVE glory is actually a call to prayer because you can never bring me MASSIVE GLORY unless you keep your spirit sweet so that you can open a door for me in prayer. Then I'll come through the door and do the really great and MASSIVE things you could never do.”

Then God showed me five ways to bring him glory. #1 was BASIC GLORY. When we do deeds of kindness, like feeding the hungry, showing kindness to a child, picking up our own messes to be considerate of others—all that is basic. It is acting in love, kindness, gentleness and graciousness. It is

letting **“your light shine before others so that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16 NIV).**

This way of bringing God glory is like the thumb on your hand. Your thumb is the most important finger. You could still grasp things if you lost your fingers but you could not grasp anything if you lost your thumbs. Basic glory means to live in the character of Christ.

The next way to bring God glory is ADDED GLORY. When we win a soul to Christ we have raised up another soul that will bring him basic glory. We have added another member to his kingdom. When Peter preached, thousands were “added” to the kingdom. Everyone should want to bring at least one soul to the Lord so that you have ADDED GLORY as one of the ways you bring God glory.

The next way to bring God glory is MULTIPLIED GLORY. This is when you train a leader, encourage a leader or become a leader. When seven laymen moved up in responsibility and became deacons who fed the widows their daily portion of food—in those days the number of disciples was MULTIPLIED.

I have come to believe that the entire Bible is a leadership-training book. We are all supposed to **come to the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature so that we attain to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ (Ephesians 4:13).** So when I “feed the sheep” with sermons I’ve received from God, I am bringing God multiplied glory. A well-fed disciple will become one of those mentioned in Daniel 12:3: **“Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness like the stars for ever and ever.”**

All the writing of books, the sermon preparations and the support for native pastors falls into this category of bringing God *multiplied* glory. Because of good spiritual food and encouragement baby Christians turn into those who lead many to righteousness and glory is then MULTIPLIED to God.

The next category is GREAT GLORY. This kind is only brought to the Lord through prayer. This is where opening the door to God is prayer comes in. This is like the fourth finger on your hand (counting your thumb). You cannot have a full FIST unless you have that fourth finger. To bring God MASSIVE GLORY the five kinds of glory have to all be working together.

This is the kind of glory Jesus was talking about when he said we should be dressed and ready for service, waiting to immediately open a door for the master whenever he knocks. Whenever he knocks means that he wants to enter into a human situation and do something divine—the way his will is done in heaven.

**** The Lord reminded me of this recently. I’m always praying, “Use me to bring you massive glory.” He reminded me that in addition to praying that way, I should be praying, “Come through the door I’m opening for you. Come do the massive things I could never do.”

The fifth kind of glory is COMPOUND INTEREST GLORY. This is like your little finger. It looks unimpressive. Yet to make a fist you’d need to have a little finger. This kind of glory is brought to God when we stay faithful, day after day, year after year, doing the best we can to serve God and glorify him. Even small things add up to something big when there is consistency over many years.

IF YOU BRING GOD GLORY IN ALL FIVE WAYS, IT WILL ADD UP TO MASSIVE GLORY TO GOD. But remember—it’s not all about what you do. You are doing basic good deeds, adding people to the kingdom with soul-winning, multiplying glory to God by discipling people and feeding them encouraging words from God. You bring God glory by being faithful to follow his leading and live out his character day after day, year after year. But GREAT GLORY is only brought to God when you OPEN A DOOR FOR GOD IN PRAYER. And without that kind of glory, YOU COULD NEVER BRING GOD MASSIVE GLORY.

4. JESUS AND I OPEN DOORS FOR EACH OTHER.

This is true for you as well as me. But the Lord showed me that I’m spending more time asking him to open doors for me than I am asking him to come through the doors I’m opening for him. There should be balance.

Here’s some examples of God opening doors for us. Paul wrote, **“When I went to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ I found that the Lord had opened a door for me,” (2 Cor. 2:12).** He also

wrote, “**Because a great door for effective work has opened to me and there are many who oppose me**” (1 Cor. 16:9). Paul asked us to pray for open doors. “**And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim in clearly, as I should**” (Colossians 4:3).

Jesus said to the church in Philippi, “**I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut**” (Revelations 3:8). Remember, “**These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open**” (Revelation 3:7).

**** If Jesus has the keys, why would he ever stand outside the door and knock? (Revelations 3:20). Why would he need his servants to be dressed and ready to jump up and open the door for him whenever he comes and knocks, even in the middle of the night? Why doesn't he just let his servants sleep and use his golden key, the key of David?

**** To understand this consider a motel. When I come to the desk I have to get the key to the room from the person in charge. Without the key, I cannot get into the room. But once I'm in the room, even if they have the key, they cannot get into my room if I've put the protective chain in place. Once I do that, they can only knock on my door. They can't get in because I have to open it from the inside.

God uses his key to open doors for us that we could never open. He sets before us open doors of opportunity. But for God to get into our personal situations he needs us to open the door. It's as if we've chained the door from the inside. Without our permission, he's not going to break into our situations. He must be invited.

An example of men opening doors for God is found in the story of Isaiah the prophet and King Hezekiah teaming up to pray about the destruction threatened by the King of Assyria. He wanted to destroy Judah and it's capital city, Jerusalem. God didn't just BREAK INTO THAT SITUATION. He waited to be invited in. He probably called and knocked to let Isaiah and King Hezekiah know that he wanted to come in and help. But he didn't help until they opened a door for him in believing prayer.

2 Kings 19:20 This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: I have heard your prayer concerning Sennacherib king of Assyria. Then in verse 35, “That night the angel of the Lord went out and put to death a hundred and eighty-five thousand men in the Assyrian camp. When the people got up the next morning—there were all the dead bodies!

Until God was invited into this situation by prayer he stood outside the door and knocked. King Hezekiah heard his voice and opened the door to God in prayer. God came through the door and did something MASSIVE something the King of Judah could not have done. God gave a MASSIVE military victory.

5. WHY DON'T WE OPEN THE DOOR TO GOD MORE OFTEN?

1. We think he has the key to the door. We think if he loves us that he should just intervene in our situations. We think he should just let us sleep while he uses his key and just slips into our situations unnoticed to FIX it all. We don't realize that he CANNOT GET IN unless invited.

**** Remember the motel example. The owner and the cleaning maids have master keys that will open every motel door. But if someone is in the room, they can chain the door—and that effectively keeps everyone out. I have to open the door by unchaining it to let in a cleaning maid. In the same way, you are on the inside of your situation. Jesus is on the outside of it, wanting to get in to help you. You must hear his voice, hear his knocking and open the door to him in prayer.

2. We aren't dressed and ready for service.

To be dressed and ready for service so that we can open the door for the master no matter what hour he knocks on the door means to constantly keep a sweet spirit. *A sweet spirit is a human spirit that keeps itself exclusively under the influence of the Holy Spirit.* If our human spirit is under the influence of bitterness, pride or self-pity, then we are not DRESSED. We are not ready to serve God in prayer.

1 John 3:21-23 Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases

him. And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.

When we walk in love we are dressed and ready to open a door for Jesus in prayer. Paul wrote, **“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion kindness, humility, gentleness and patience,”** (Colossians 3:12). Peter wrote, **All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble”** (1 Peter 5:5).

If we are in pride and feel we are superior, we aren’t clothed in humility. We aren’t ready to open a door for Jesus when he wants to come help some widow, orphan, or any needy person.

3. We are ignoring his voice and his knock.

When Jesus knocks at the door of our hearts it’s not going to be a physical pounding like our ear would hear if someone outside our house was trying to get our attention. We usually won’t hear a voice speaking words when he speaks. The knocking and his voice come to us by the Spirit and must be spiritually discerned. If we harden our hearts we can ignore the knock of Jesus. We can deaden the ability of our spirits to hear his voice.

**** Let me give you an example. On Sept. 22, 2015 I received the following email from a distant country. “Dear Evangelist Wes, Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. For three years now I have been using your teaching and preaching materials from your web. Your sermons and songs bless us much. One of your sermons that still bless my spirit today is: WHEN SILENT IS GOLDEN. I feel like you are speaking directly to me every time I read it. So much blessing. God bless you for such inspiration.

“Now I am writing to you at the request and plea of my sick wife who is bedridden, diagnosed as having a cancerous brain tumor and waiting to die anytime as per doctor's speech.

Two years ago we watched your sermon on the web that really blessed her. You were talking about power of the Spirit which came from your hand so mightily that all those whom you laid your hand on received healing. Today she asked me to contact you. She believes that your prayers can change the doctor's report. That if she knows you are praying for her, she will be well. All she wants is an assurance of your prayer. The doctors need us to raise about \$4000 to perform a major surgery on her but that would take a miracle to happen. It is almost next to impossible. We are very poor that even raising a meal a day is a problem. In fact, yesterday we were locked out of our house where we were unable to pay our rent for three months. Our monthly rent is \$60. I also believe that your praying with us will heal her. It is faith that heals. So, if she believes in you and so do I, why can't you pray with us? Please cover us in prayer and let us know you are praying for her.

I will be glad to hear from you. I know we have not met but just pray for us. If not for her request, I wouldn't be writing you now. I believe it is God's time. Silver and gold belong to God. He provides to his own at his chosen time. All we need from you at the moment is PRAYER. PLEASE PRAY WITH US. IN CHRIST'S AFFECTION,” Pastor X (I’m not giving names in this sermon for security reasons.)

I perceived Jesus was knocking on the door of this situation, wanting to get in. I could ignore this knock. After all, I cannot meet every need in the world. I’m only one person. People die all over the world. People are dying every day. Children are starving, dying of malaria. People are being kidnapped and sold as sex slaves. I cannot right every wrong. Muslims are killing thousands of Christians across the Middle-East.

But the knocking of Jesus and his call was clear enough. He wanted me to pray and invite him into the situation.

So I decided to get involved. I first sent a contact whom I know in this country to meet this new pastor and check out his story. My contact man found the young man truly starving to death in the hospital. This pastor whose wife was ill fell to his knees and begged my contact to give him something to eat. With money I had sent our man bought him a loaf of bread and a 2 liter bottle of soda pop. He ate the entire loaf and drank the entire bottle immediately. As God continued to answer prayer I was able to raise \$200 for first and last months rent. I sent that so they could get their family in one place out of the slum.

**** The knocking of Jesus continued. I got the most beautiful email from this young pastor. He said, “Dear pastor Wes, I can't hide my happiness for what you have done to me today. Surely may God bless you so much. I will never forget this day. I did receive \$250 from pastor (our contact man) today for my new house and some food. I almost collapsed to receive such a huge amount of money. I have believed today that God surely lives. I will never stop serving him. Tomorrow I shall make payment and move in the new house. Although it will be empty of any belongings. Our big challenge will be how to sleep. No beddings. We wonder whether we will manage to sleep on cold floor. Nevertheless, we have a house out of slum now. That's all we prayed and hoped for. Thank you so much pastor.

“As you had requested earlier, I have sent you photos of my children. The big girl is my first born. She is 10 years old and in class 4. She loves poetry. The second born is that boy. The only son I have. He is aged 6 years and in class 1. He likes playing football. The little girl is my last born. She is 4 years old and in pre unit class. God bless you so much pastor. I am alive again. Oh! God you are awesome. God bless you so so much pastor. You are a big blessing to this world and because of what you are doing to people like us you will never die prematurely. God will give you everything you desire. May all your enemies turn to be your friends in Christ. Amen and amen. Praying for you. Pastor X.” As God continued to answer prayer I was able to raise \$300 for bedding and cooking utensils.

As of this writing God has answered prayer for this woman's surgery. He has provided the funding, and the operation has been successful. She will live. They removed all the cancerous cells. Truly Jesus has come through the door to do something MASSIVE. The day when I sent the funds for the surgery I felt like Jesus and I had sat down for a meal together to feast on his special kind of food—“**My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.**” The peace, joy, satisfaction and delight of doing the Father's will are what we feast on together in the Spirit.

6. WHAT IF JESUS GETS IN THE HABIT OF KNOCKING ON MY DOOR?

**** The servants Jesus spoke of had to be dressed and ready to serve the master not just on one day, but every day. After the wedding feast he might go out to visit a relative or go on some business trip. When ever the master left on some mission it would be assumed that he would come back and knock again so that his servants would let him in. That means servants like this have to stay spiritually dressed and alert, because at any time of the day or night a prayer situation might arise that Jesus wants to get into.

You should know that if you are such a servant there is a responsibility you feel that others do not feel. Many believers are asleep, and although Jesus knocks and calls they do not get up and open the door in prayer. But when you give yourself over to being his servant, you must keep on being responsible. One miracle story is only one chapter in the book. Surely another need will come along, another situation that Jesus wants to get into. Your opening the door in prayer allows him to come in. The downside of that is that you can't be goofing off like so many of his servants. You must stay dressed in his character virtues so that nothing will hinder your prayers. You can't allow yourself to have temper fits, self-pity parties, spiritual laziness and apathy.

**** But there is a wonderful UP-SIDE. Only those servants who open the door for Jesus get to feast with Jesus and eat his special food. Like the disciples of old, most disciples know little to nothing about this food. But it is very satisfying and tasty, filling and comforting. To feast with Jesus where you and him are rejoicing together—well, it's worth all the alertness, all the continual readiness. That day, Jesus and I feasted, after I opened a door, after he came through it and did something MASSIVE that I could never do. I prayed, others gave. They responded to his call, and they, too are feasting with Jesus!

7. OH, THE FUTURE!

That day Jesus and I feasted for a while together as we enjoyed the satisfying food of having done the Father's will together. Then Jesus left on another mission and I will had to go back to alertness, waiting day and night for his call, his spiritual knock on the door. Once again he will want into some human situation and you and I will be just the type of people to invite him in—as long as we keep

ourselves dressed in his virtues with willing hearts to keep on being responsible to open the door whenever he knocks.

How many times will I open a door for Jesus before my life is over? Who knows? Who knows how many times we will feast together here on earth before my life is over and the future promised glory arrives?

Remember that Jesus said, **“It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. I tell you the truth, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them”** (Luke 12:38). After a life of living in spiritual watchfulness, bearing the constant responsibility of an intercessor there will finally come a day when earthly ministry is over. Then there will be a special expression of Jesus’s appreciation to his door-openers. Instead of having the usual feast where we eat together the tasty bread of doing the Father’s will, Jesus will reverse the roles and wait on us. All our lives on earth we will wait on him, to jump up and open the door in prayer whenever there is the prompting of compassion from his heart. But someday, he will serve his servants. Oh, what a future awaits the faithful intercessors and those who give or serve at his prompting.

**** Why would Jesus have us sit at a table while he waits on us instead of eating with us as he did before so many times when we rejoiced together as we ate his special food? Apparently, God wants to honor us greatly, even exceedingly. His appreciation for those “door-openers” will be profound. Nothing could put more honor on us than this.

**** Jesus continued by giving a warning to us all. We could harden our hearts and refuse to care about the needs of others. We could plug our spiritual ears so that we could not hear the sound of his knocking. We could consider his compassionate calling to open a door for him as something irritating and obnoxious. But then a glorious future would not await us.

Jesus said, **“Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time? It will be good for that servant whom the master finds doing so when he returns. I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. But suppose the servant says to himself, ‘My master is taking a long time in coming,’ and he then begins to beat the menservants and maidservants and to eat and drink and get drunk. The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers”** (Luke 12:42-46). The King James version reads, “A place with the hypocrites.” Hell is for hypocrites.

Just as Revelation 3:20 and Luke 12:35-37 are commonly thought to refer to just salvation and just Christ’s second coming, so also this portion of scripture about the wise manager or the bad manager is thought to refer just to the main event when Jesus comes again. *But this has a second meaning.* The master can *COME INDIVIDUALLY* for each one of us. If we think we know the time and date of the MAIN EVENT we might say, “Well then, according to my eschatology clock, I have a few more years before he comes back.” No one knows the day or the hour, of course, but the point is that he could come back JUST FOR YOU today! Your life could be over in one heartbeat. You do not know the day or the hour of THE MAIN EVENT, his return to take his people unto himself. You also do not know the day or night he might come for you INDIVIDUALLY.

This is why we should live ready—dressed in his virtues. You see, if we are ready to pray, ready to open a door to Jesus in prayer, ready to invite him into situations so that he can do something MASSIVE, then we would be ready to die, or we’d be ready to be raptured. On the other hand, if we harden our hearts so that we cannot hear his knock or his voice asking us to open a door in prayer, then in that state of hardness of heart we will begin to be abusive to other people. Willfully neglecting to hear the cry of others is a form of abuse. The priest and the Levite who walked by on the other side of the road didn’t physically hit the wounded man in the ditch. But his hopes and self-worth were abused as they shunned and avoided him. If we learn how to avoid caring for others we would live in an irresponsible and selfish manner, living just for self. Nothing glorious awaits in the future for such people.

**** The second greatest command in the Bible is, **“Love your neighbor as yourself”** (Mark 12:31). *When you pray or give for someone’s need as if his or her need were your very own need—that’s*

loving your neighbor as yourself. When you act as if their needs are your very own needs—by praying, giving, serving, helping—then you are loving your neighbor as yourself.

IN CLOSING: When Jesus went to raise Lazarus from the dead he didn't waltz in with a smile and say, "Cheer up! I've got the solution. I am the answer. I'm going to fix this, so be happy. I've got THE FIX!" No, **Jesus wept**, (John 11:35). Those watching said, "**See how much he loved him**" (v36). Jesus knew he could raise Lazarus from the dead. He knew he WOULD raise Lazarus from the dead. *Why did he bother to weep? Why didn't he just bounce in cheerily and say, "I'm here! I'm the guy who fixes things. Cheer up, everyone."* It's a good question, and one to ponder. Apparently, it showed a lot of love to first FEEL what the people in that situation felt.

Paul wrote, "**Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep,**" (Romans 12:15 NLT). Why weep with those who weep if you have the answer? *I think you can better open a door to God in prayer when you care. You can better open a door to God in prayer when you care deeply. The deeper you care, the wider you open the door.* Jesus cared so deeply he wept. Then he said, "**Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew you always hear me.**" (John 11:42). *Then, after fully identifying with the grieving relatives, as if their problem was his very own, Jesus FIXED IT.*

Finally, remember Jesus said, "**Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time? It will be good for that servant whom the master finds doing so when he returns. I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions.**" There will be a heavenly promotion to more ministry in another life when Jesus comes back for his own. But this truth applies to this life as well. Jesus lives in our hearts. He goes out on missions, so to speak, and comes back to have us open the door in prayer. If he finds us caring for people when he checks up on us he will promote us in this life, giving us more anointing, more responsibility, and more intimacy with him. Therefore the caring, the responsibility, the watchfulness and the labor of love is rewarded with increased intimacy with God, which is the ultimate reward. I LOVE YOU. MAY GOD BLESS YOU.