

THE QUESTION OF THE WEEK
“Jesus said again, ‘I am the gate for the sheep.’”
John 10: 7

“Try to enter through the narrow gate.” Not everyone can enter. Not everyone is supposed to enter. Not everyone is going to enter. What am I referring to? What is Jesus referring to? Jesus has come to announce the Kingdom of God, or we might say, Jesus is God’s reign breaking into our world. And there is this kingdom, this reigning of God over all that is. And there is a plan that God is carrying out in and through the original creation and in and through the redemption of that creation that his Beloved Son Jesus Christ has won for us by his death and resurrection.

My friends, we are here only for a time. My dad used to say (much to my befuddlement when I was younger), “This life passes like the twinkling of an eye.” And I would think to myself, “What is he talking about? We have all the time in the world.” No. No we don’t. We have a very limited amount of time. And it passes very quickly. And it matters what we do with that time, how we use, how we value it as a wondrous gift given to each of us each day. The gift of time. How much will you get? How much will I get? How am I using that time presently?

“Try to enter through the narrow gate.” How we use our time, how we give of ourselves, how we listen for what the Lord wants to give to us, do for us, ask of us—that will determine if we enter into the kingdom or not. Jesus, the person, the Son of God, the Holy One—He is the way in. He is the gate. We can only enter by entering into a relationship with Him. That is why he came. He wants us to be able to relate to him as a human person, like us in all things—except sin. He is real. He became humanly real. He is the Way. There really is no other way. Jesus himself said: “No one can come to the Father except through me.” There is not entry into the Father’s reign except through the obedient Son. No substitutes. No short cuts. No other way in. Only through the Son. That seems so limiting. So narrow. Yes. Yes it does. But it is the only way in. Do you believe that? That is not only the question of the week. That is the question of life.