

THE “KEYS” TO KNOWLEDGE

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INTRODUCTION

TEXT: *“Woe unto you lawyers! For ye took away the key of knowledge: ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered.” (v. 52)*

A. THE SETTING:

1. The popularity of Jesus and His ministry.
2. Open opposition by Jewish leaders.

B. THE CHARGE AGAINST THE JEWISH LEADERS.

1. *“Woe unto you lawyers! For ye took away the key of knowledge: ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered.” (v. 52).*
2. Knowledge leads to life. They were taking away the opportunity to spiritual life.!

C. WHEN ONE BECAME A “LAWYER” of “SCRIBE”.

1. He was given a “wooden key”.
 2. Symbolic to the power that was now his.
 3. He could open the truth, and message of God for the people.
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Use Of The Term “Key”

A. BY DEFINITION:

1. “To open.” As a key opens a door or a lock.
2. “Authority.” To open, Reveal, or unlock!
3. To right to access or make known the contents of the message.

B. BY APPLICATION OR ILLUSTRATION:

1. To open:
 - a. Information.
 - b. The Way.
 2. Authority.
 - a. Great Commission.
 - b. Authorized by God. (Heb. 1).
 3. All Teachers.
 - a. Prepare.
 - b. Position of a teacher.
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EXAMPLE

A. PETER:

1. *“I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. (Matt. 16:19).*
2. To open the kingdom of heaven unto men.

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B. HOW DID PETER DO THIS:

1. Acts 2: “The Day Of Pentecost”.
 - a. It was Peter’s sermon that is recorded.
 - b. His answer given when the question “What shall we do” was asked.
2. Acts 10: The Conversion of Cornelius.
 - a. The story of the call of Peter.
 - b. The gospel should be taken to the Gentiles.
 - c. “Key” used to open up the way of salvation to the Gentile world.

C. NOT PETER ONLY:

1. To the apostles.
2. “*Verily I say unto you, What things soever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and what things soever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.*” (Matt. 18;18).

SERIOUSNESS

A. SERIOUSNESS OF “TAKING AWAY THE KEY OF KNOWLEDGE”.

1. “*My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I also will forget thy children.*” (Hosea 4:6).
2. “The people that doth not understand shall be overthrown.” (Hosea 4:14).

B. THE JEWS CRUCIFIED THE SON OF GOD!

1. Peter said they did it in ignorance (Acts 3:17).
2. So many of them missed the kingdom of God.

C. FAIL TO BE PLEASING UNTO GOD.

1. Faith comes of hearing the Word. (Romans 10:17).
2. If knowledge is withheld - it withholds faith.
3. Without faith it is Impossible to please God. (Heb. 11:6).

WHO TODAY?

A. Who Takes Away The Key To Knowledge Today???

1. **False Teacher:**
 - a. Those who teach error and know they teach error.
 - b. Whatever their motive.
2. **The Unprepared Teacher.**
 - a. Presumes to teach without proper preparation.
 - b. Teacher without learning.

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3. Parents:

- a. Parents take away the key of knowledge by not teaching as they should.
- b. By keeping their children out of the learning situation. Out of church, the assemble, Class, etc.
- c. By action and Example teach wrong thing.

4. All Christians Who Do Not Live The Life!

- a. They stay away - that keeps others away.
 - b. Their example is the **only key to knowledge** that some people have!
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CONCLUSION

A. WHAT A TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITY THE “LAWYER” HAD.

1. To be able to teach the people the Word of God.
2. To bring them to the “kingdom of God.”

B. WHAT A TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITY WE HAVE TODAY!

1. To Teach The People (Great Commission)
2. Bring them to the Kingdom of God.

C. WHAT A TERRIBLE THING IF JESUS ADDRESSES US AS HE DID THE LAWYER.

1. *“Woe unto you lawyers! For ye took away the key of knowledge”*
2. Woe unto you teachers — you failed to teach the truth.
3. Woe unto you Christians — you failed to live the life.
4. Woe unto you Parents — you took away the key of knowledge.

D. MAY WE ALL LIVE AND TEACH IN SUCH A WAY AS TO HEAR HIM SAY *WELL DONE GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT!*
