

M. Jan. 21, 1934 - W.V.

S.H.
(351)

C.B.
(125)

In and out
Jas. 1019

From the dark valley of the shadow of death the Psalmist said, "The Lord is my Shepherd." From the sunny hillside of the Gospel Jesus says, "I am the good Shepherd."

I am the door to the sheep fold by me if any man enter in he shall be saved and shall go in and out and find pasture. we want to talk on these words, "In and out and find pasture!"

Met the scene that often appeared before Jesus. The sheep huddled in a herd at night fall waiting for the door to the fold to open. But the next morning they were equally eager for the doors to open and let them go out to the green pasture. The alternation of their needs reminded Jesus of the needs of man.

Take the case of the Prodigal - He asked for what belonged to him. He spent it. He awoke to his senses and saw his poverty, his recklessness, and the hush around him. Disillusioned let's watch him with eyes of Jesus as he traveled back

to his father's house, he needed a door
IN.

There was another boy there in that house - He remained there as a sense of duty - he held on to his possessions. He knew nothing of far horizons. He needed a door **OUT**, not to the sins of the Far Country - or to the fells of wild oats but a door out of the little sheepfold of cautious security and cloistered sympathy to the Pasture - lands of the great home sons of God where men feed their minds on fresh ideas, lift up their eyes to larger visions and grow in largeness of soul.

It is a blessed thing that when a man has sinned and then repents and returns Jesus is the door IN. It is also a blessed fact that for the narrow, stingy and little minded selfish hearted Jesus has been a door out to bigger living.

But neither of these boys is an ideal figure. But the ideal child of God that makes the proper use of the in & out of the sheepfold. And in its concreteness in every day life it means

1. The alternation of going into the shelter of the Christian faith and going out to the world of it.

we must know our shelter but should not mistake its meaning.

Ill. Pulitzer's "Power of Silence" In our shelter make it tower if you like but along with a little back gate that opens to a silent room have a front door opening to the world and through which you can hear the cries and the suffering of the world.

Alternatives

God our refuge

God our strength

Moving into silence

Out to action

THIS

Keeps Rel. healthy and balanced

2. Going into restraints of Rel. & out to the liberties of it.
Ill. Uncle to his orphaned nephew After he had reared him under proper discipline, "David do what you have mind to do." Jesus would have us go out in the liberty of our free wills but after proper discipline. If I want freedom of the artist I must shut myself into the finger exercise periods. "Narrow is the gate and straitened the way that leadeth unto life."

Censors are good temporarily but they can't do what home and church have left undone.

3. Go in to the close up views of the sheepfold and out to the long vistas of the Pasture.

In other words the intimate and the personal in Rel. must alternate with the general & social.

Paul has been likened to the sky -
lark, a. High soaring - generalizations
b. warm body on earth close touch of man

S.H.
(350)

C.B.
(49)

