

PART 2

THE GATE

MESSAGE NOTES

GO DEEP GUIDE

SERMON RECAP

God has always desired closeness with His people. In Closer – Part 2: The Gate, we explored how God extends an invitation to relationship—and how that invitation requires a response. Using Jesus' parable of the Great Banquet (Luke 14:16–24), the design of the Tabernacle gate (Exodus 27), and Jesus' own words ("I am the gate"), we learned three powerful truths:

- **The Gate is Wide** – God's invitation is for everyone.
- **The Gate is Singular** – Access to God is by His design, fulfilled in Jesus.
- **The Gate Commands a Response** – Hesitation, delay, or silence is still a decision.

God's invitation to come closer is open, intentional, and urgent. The question is not if we are invited—but how we will respond.

TAKE A MOMENT

Think about a time you hesitated to respond to an invitation and later regretted it—or were glad you finally said yes. What made you hesitate?

THE GATE IS WIDE

SCRIPTURE: Luke 14:21-23

"Go quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and invite the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame… urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full."

Why do you think Jesus emphasized that "there is still room"?

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 27:16

"For the entrance to the courtyard, make a curtain that is 30 feet long."

How does the wide design of the Tabernacle gate reinforce this invitation?

In what ways have you ever assumed God's closeness was for "others" but not for you?

THE GATE IS SINGULAR

SCRIPTURE: John 10:9

"Yes, I am the gate. Those who come in through me will be saved."

Why do people often resist the idea that there is only one way to God?

How does this connect to the Tabernacle having only one entrance?

Are there ways you've tried to approach God on your own terms instead of His?

THE GATE COMMANDS A RESPONS

SCRIPTURE: Luke 14:18

"But they all began making excuses."

Why are excuses sometimes easier than outright rejection?

How is delay equivalent to disobedience?

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 100:4

"He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed."

What does this passage teach us about the posture God desires when we approach Him?

Where might God be inviting you to respond right now—and what excuses tend to rise up?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

- Where do you feel God inviting you to come closer in this season?
- What fears, habits, or distractions make you hesitate?
- How can your church help you move from standing at the gate to stepping through it?

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

Luke 14:23
"So his master said, 'Go out into the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full."

ACTION STEP

This week, intentionally respond to God's invitation:

- Set aside daily time to draw near in prayer and Scripture.
- Say yes to one step of obedience you've been delaying.
- Invite someone else to come closer—through encouragement, prayer, or invitation to church.

Remember: The gate is open. The invitation is extended. Step through.

UPCOMING EVENTS