Social media and TV full of **lifehacks** that will change your life

**Shepherds**

Shepherds worked out in the hills, some distance from the city/ town. If they had to bring the sheep back down by the end of every day, the sheep would never get to graze, they’d be exhausted and so never fatten up.

So, lifehack, they gathered stones/ rocks to make a walled enclosure/ sheep pen.

This was not a monument or a museum, it was a lifehack.

So, with no carpentry/ iron works, there would be no door or gate.

Instead, the shepherds would lie across the gate – they made themselves the gate.

Anyone going in or out would have to go through them.

For the sheep, this was comforting. They felt safe.

* Safe being all together
* Safe within the boundaries of the enclosure
* Safe because their shepherd was with them

For anyone/ anything with bad motives towards the sheep had to think again. They’d have ti get past the shepherd first.

Jesus said, I am The Ultimate Gate.

Jesus also said I am the Ultimate Shepherd

* I know you – each one of you, completely
* You know me – you hear my voice and follow me
* I lay down my life for you

Religion says let’s build

**Thieves and robbers**

You don’t have to be Sherlock Holmes to work out that anyone who breaks in, climbs through your back window, is probably up to no good.

As a youth worker…

Jesus said,

*“Anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber.”*

Some presume Jesus is referring to the Devil/ Satan. But there’s no mention of this.

For sure, we find ourselves in a spiritual battle.

Few people need convincing today of the reality of evil. They see destruction, disease, death all around.

If God is the Ultimate Reality, the source of all life, then

But Jesus is not talking about the Devil here.

Instead, Jesus was talking about the self-serving, power-grabbing Pharisees

In John Chapter 9 Jesus had come across a person blind since birth. Unable to work, and with no social welfare, he had been left to beg.

Jesus healed him. And the Pharisees were livid.

Instead of celebrating the miraculous healing, they said it was invalid because Jesus had healed the man on the Sabbath – the day of rest.

Jesus said it was no longer the beggar that was blind, it was the Pharisees. They were so wrapped up in their religion, they were blind to God.

Now, Jesus says, listen you Pharisees, you are like thieves and robbers. Because:

1. you won’t enter through the Gate – through Jesus
2. you rob people of authentic faith
3. you steel, kill, and destroy – that what religion does!

**Jesus – the Ultimate Gate**

I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. The way to the Father is through me.

Pharisees said they were disciples of Moses. Really? If so, you’d know that Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah, the Christ.

**Enter**

Jesus didn’t say, I am the window, so you can stay as you are/ where you are, looking through

Jesus said, *“I am The Gate; whoever enters through me will be saved.”*

Is it time for you to enter, to take this step? To say, “I’m in”!