Date: 10/22/2016

Title: Key Card

Theme: Jesus is your key card to heaven.

Object: KMS key card. Key card to heaven (picture of Jesus with words below similar to KMS key card).

Text: Matthew 7:13-14 (NIV) “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.”

Jesus is talking here about getting to heaven and being part of the kingdom of God.

And He says that there are many people are traveling in life down a big wide road that leads to destruction: eternal death.

And only a few people are walking up the narrow path that leads to eternal life in God’s kingdom.

I hope we’re all on the narrow path, don’t you?

Now I have a niece named Jenine. She just got married in Chicago and we went to her wedding there in September.

When she was just a little girl, maybe 9 or 10 years old, she asked a question that has stuck in my head to this day.

We were at a family gathering at my parent’s place in Pittsburgh, PA, and out of the blue, she asked this question:

“Is it easy to get into heaven, or is it, like, really restrictive?” [repeat]

Her question reminds me of what Jesus said in the verses we read today.

I have wondered for 20 years now how I should have answered that question, and, if I had to answer it today, here’s what I would say.

“Yes, Jenine, it is easy to get into heaven, and Yes, Jenine, it is really restrictive. Let me illustrate it this way…

How many want to get a good job when you grow up and be able to support your family? (study hard)

Having a good job that you enjoy is a wonderful blessing, and I still work at the same job I”ve worked at for over 40 years, but now I only work 1 or 2 days a week.

Every day that I go to work, there’s something very important I have to take with me.

This is a key card to Koch Membrane Systems, the company that I work for. [Explain why we have a key card and how it works]

Getting into Koch Membrane Systems with this key card is really easy: just hold it up to the detector and the door unlocks.

But getting into Koch Membrane Systems is also really restrictive: only people who have the key card can get in.

Now how does that answer my niece, Jenine’s question: Is it easy to get into heaven or is it, like, really restrictive?

It is easy to get into heaven if you have the right key card, but only those who have the right key card can get in.

Now here’s the important question: how do you get a key card that will get you into heaven?

Well here’s a **picture** of the key card to heaven.

It doesn’t have my picture, it has a picture of Jesus. And it doesn’t have my company name, it says “Jesus Christ is my Savior, my Lord, and my Friend, and He has forgiven my sins.”

How many would like to have the key card to heaven?

Let’s ask Jesus to come into our hearts and be our Savior, our boss, and our Friend.