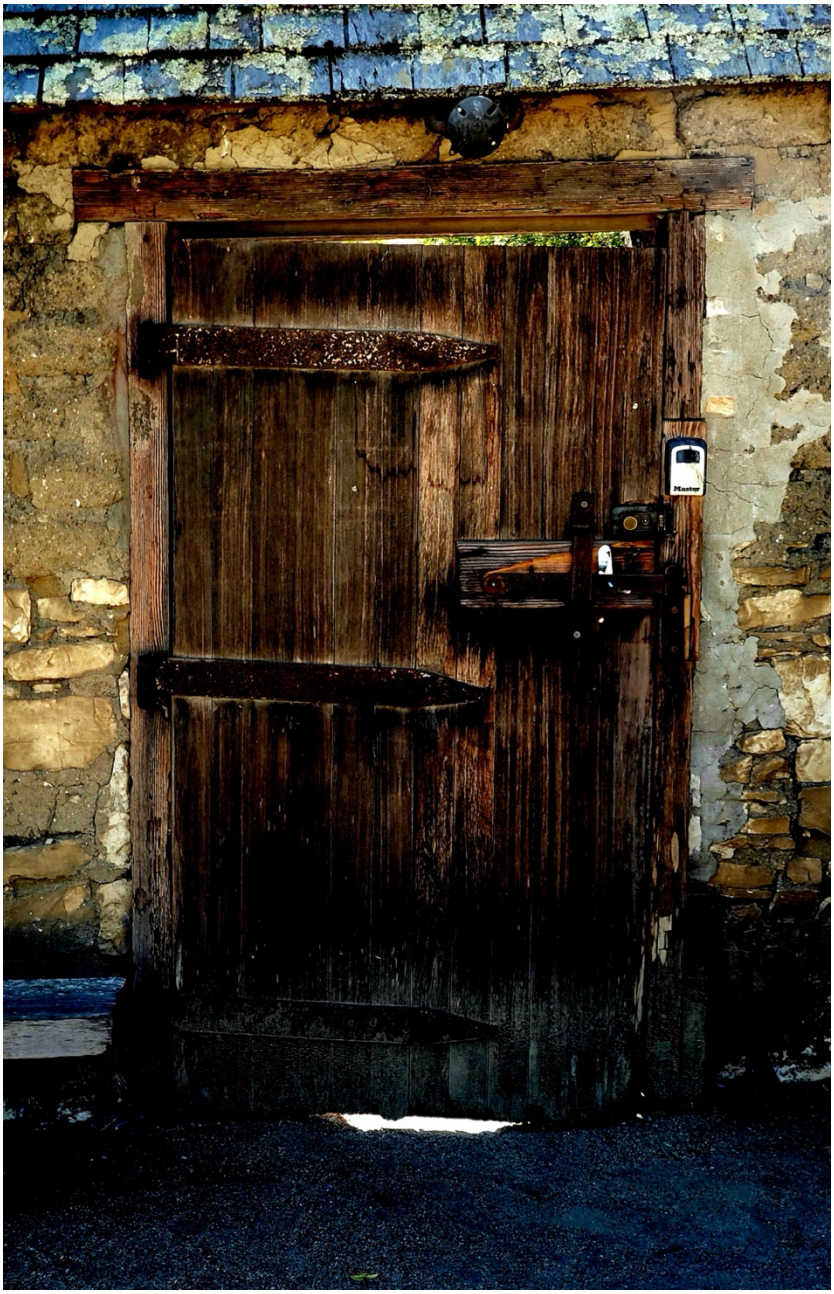
# the THIEF

You know, I've heard it said, a thief doesn't break into an abandoned house. I mean, think about that.

There used to be this old homestead that sat in the corner of a vacant lot when I was growing up. It must have been a mansion in its day, because even after decades of abandonment and desertion, it continued to appear stately. What gave its insides away were the shattered windowpanes and the overgrown ivy and the dilapidated porches that shouted of downcast vacancy. You know, all of us kids were too frightened to enter its doors and sift through the house's innards, because it bespoke of ghosts, of terror, of possession. Even in its disarray, it had a presence.



We can be beautiful but broken and abandoned, successful but slivered and shattered, fashionable but fragmented and mangled, gregarious but damaged and defeated. We can be so flashy on the outside but vacant inside. Thieves don't break in there. There's nothing valuable inside when we don't invest and believe in ourselves and what's inside. We protect what is buried within when we recognize the costly asset we own—our heart, our soul. When we nurture our souls as a priceless and precious heirloom, that's when the enemy seeks to pilfer you and me.

Please be certain, if you are being attacked by the enemy, it is because there is something so valuable buried within you that your Father has placed there. He has deposited great riches and abundant wealth inside of each of His children, and the enemy's mission is to steal, kill and destroy that which a Holy God has planted in us. You will never see a thief breaking into a shack or a security officer protecting an abandoned property. Just like Satan doesn't have any reason to rob one of his own establishments. But I can promise, if you are trying to follow Jesus and attempting to live wholesome, trying to fly right and make good choices ...if you are honoring the Lord and being gracious to others, surrendering addictions...if you're allowing Jesus to direct your steps, then that dirty devil is going to be breaking down your back door and sneaking in and attempting to dishevel every purpose God has designed for you. Then, it's time to put out signage that warns NO TRESPASSING and BEWARE OF GOD. And TAKE BACK your castle.

One last thing, the Lord promises to repay many times over all that the enemy robs from His children. There's no time like the present to take inventory and give it to the Father for safekeeping and allow Him to return all the enemy has stolen. If you will let Him, He will move right in and take up residence and protect everything you own that you hold dear.

**"The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, Generous inside and out, true from start to finish."**
**John 1:14 MSG**