

The Knock Of Heaven

- *Revelation 3:20*

- **Thank you for being here this morning & I trust & pray that you will allow the Holy Spirit to speak to your hearts this morning.**
- **Let me begin by just asking a simple question. How many of you enjoy unexpected visitors at your home? Most people, on average, do not like unexpected company & interestingly enough will even refuse to come to do the door if they are busy & don't want to make time.**
 - Now, we are in church, but how many of you have ever seen a salesman or others canvassing the neighborhood & you tell the family, "No one answer the door."?
 - I would ask how many of you have done the same thing when the Preacher comes visiting, but I won't ask that this morning.
 - I think we have all done that before & we do it most of the time b/c we don't want to make time to listen to them or we have already made up our minds we don't want anything they have to offer.
- **Sadly, though, in our scripture this morning, Jesus says, "I stand at the door and knock", and yet many don't want to make time for Him or want anything to do with what He has to offer.**
 - This is of course one of the letters written to the seven churches, this one in particular to the Laodicea church.
 - The Laodicea church was the worst of all of them. It was a church filled with unregenerate people who had nothing more than religion, and Christ had no part in their lives.
 - Christ was outside this apostate church and wanted to come in—something that could only happen if the people repented.
- **In a very famous painting by Holman Hunt, He depicts Jesus standing at a door knocking.**
 - In His hand He holds a lantern, willing to share His light.
 - There is no handle out on the outside, only the homeowner could open the door.
 - But the door is bolted shut, the homeowner unwilling that He should come in.
- **This depicts for us one of the greatest illustrations of the human heart and sadly the heart of many of the church today.**
 - Our hearts are filled with wickedness & sin.
 - We keep the door shut & refuse to allow Jesus to come in.
 - But Jesus stands on the outside, and He longs to save us from our sin & is willing to shine His light to show us the way to freedom,
 - But often times, man never responds to the knock.
- **On the other hand, we have the promise that if we will call out to Him, "if we ask" & open the doors of our hearts, then Christ will come in & save us from our sin.**
 - Luke 19:10 – "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."
 - Matthew 11:28 – "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."
 - Christ is knocking today. Perhaps for some of you, you have rejected the knock of the Savior over & over again.
- **Though this letter was written to the Laodicea church, I believe this verse begs us to ask some questions this morning.**
 1. **Who Can Open The Door Of Your Heart?**
 - You are the only one this morning that can open the door of your heart.
 - So many reject Him & in turn forgo the great blessings that only God can give.
 - Others will reject Him & give Christ no place in their lives or in their homes.

-) Many homes across this great world today will go an entire week & never once mention the name of Christ.
 -) No prayers are ever prayed,
 -) No worshipping the Savior in the home.
 -) Yet Jesus longs this morning to be the very center of your life & your home.
- Some of us are not so sure that we want Jesus in our heart! We hear Him knocking. We sense the presence of the Holy Spirit. We feel the tug of the Love of God as He reaches out to us and tries to gently persuade us to come to Him.
- So, we slowly open the door to allow us to see who is there but we keep the chain on the latch just in case.
 - It's as though there are some things in our lives that we are afraid of giving up, or we are not sure that we want the life that Jesus offers.
 - We dislike the thought of surrendering our will to the will of God so we just peek at what Jesus is offering and we never open the door wide enough to allow Him into our heart.
- Sadly there will be church services today that will never mention the name Jesus. They will never pray a prayer in His name or worship Him as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
- Jesus desires to be a part of your life, a part of your home, and a part of this ministry today & He knocks. Will you open the door?

2. How Does He Knock At our Heart's Door?

a. Through our conscience.

- i. We could certainly agree this morning that though the Bible tells us we have fallen short in our sin, I dare say many need that reassurance.
 - 1. When Judas betrayed Jesus & sold Him for a few pieces of silver, it was conscience that got the best of him.
 - 2. He knew in his heart that what he had done was wrong & he could not live with himself knowing he had sinned against a Holy God.
- ii. We all know deep in our hearts that we have failed God, ourselves and others throughout life. And nothing we could ever do in and of ourselves would ever pay the penalty we owe.

b. Through the Gospel.

- i. Those of us that have been saved this morning could never deny the saving power & convicting power of God's Word.
 - 1. Hebrews 4:12 – "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."
 - 2. I Corinthians 1:21 – "For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe."
- ii. The Gospel message has a way of penetrating our hard hearts.
- iii. I thank God for the many that have been saved & given their life to Christ through our services. But I also realize it is never the words that I will say or the songs that are sung that can ever save a person. It is only through the convicting power of God's Word & Him alone.

c. Through the witness of others.

- i. Many have come to Christ & even step foot in the door of a church over the years only b/c of the faithful witness of a Christian life.
- ii. Why is it important that we live a faithful example for God each day?
 - 1. It is to please & obey God first of all.
 - 2. But also it is so others will see the love of Christ in our lives.
 - a. You may never reach people with a tract.
 - b. You may never reach people with activities.
 - c. But a life that is committed to God will forever be a lasting imprint on even the hardest of hearts.

d. Through circumstances of life.

- i. You know, some of the hardest moments in people's lives has also turned out to be the starting point of their conversion.
- ii. Many a man has turned to God in their time of grief simply b/c they realized when they could do nothing else, God stepped in & carried them through.
 - 1. I wouldn't wish harm on anyone for any reason.
 - 2. I don't want people to have to grieve or be heart-broken over tragedies in their life.
 - 3. But if God can reach down in the midst of that tragedy & turn their hard hearts toward Him, it is well worth the pain.

e. Through the Holy Spirit.

- i. One of the greatest ways that Christ knocks at our heart's door is through the convicting power of the Holy Spirit.
 - 1. When a person comes to a service & something is sung or said that the Holy Spirit uses to break their hearts & help them see the weight of their sin.
 - 2. Through a visit or even throughout the course of a day, the Holy Spirit corners you & finally gets you to see your need of God.
- ii. But just b/c the Holy Spirit, or God's Word, or the testimony of others, or anything else convicts you, conviction alone is never enough.
 - 1. Conviction is like hearing the knock at the door. But just b/c you hear it, you have not yet made any action.
 - a. People may come to church, feel convicted of their sin, even get to the point of great sorrow for their wrong, and yet they are never moved to action. They never forsake their sins & turn to Christ.
 - b. Often people will even feel good that they were convicted or that they heard the knock & become satisfied with that.
 - 2. Turning to Christ & trusting in Him is not just hearing the knock, but inviting Him in to be Lord of your life.

3. Why Won't We Let Him In?

- Why do people not open the door when Jesus knocks?
 - Is it because Satan has blinded them to their own need of a Savior?
 - Is it because they don't want to have eternal life?
 - Is it because they rather live in their sin and wickedness?
 - Is it because they are afraid?
 - Or is it because they just don't want to surrender their life to Jesus?
- There is only one answer to this question, and that is SIN.
- Anything that is a barrier between us & Christ is SIN. Anything that keeps us from Jesus is SIN.

- Jesus stands before the heart of man and continues to knock, knock and knock without ceasing.
 - He knocks on your door with every gospel message you hear.
 - He knocks on your door when every moment of depression, worry, fear, anxiety or sickness strikes your life.
 - He knocks on your door every time you receive a blessing that you don't deserve.
 - He knocks on your door every time judgment comes and you face the rod of correction.

4. What Happens When We Let Him In?

a. Our sins are forgiven.

- i. I John 1:9a – “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins,”

b. He washes us white as snow.

- i. I John 1:9b – “and ... cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

c. His blood covers us so that we can stand before God redeemed.

- i. Ephesians 1:7 – “In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;”
- ii. I Peter 1:18-19 – “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:”

➤ Why do you think that Jesus continues to knock? It's not because He wants something you have, but because He wants to give you something that He has!

- II Peter 3:9 – “The Lord ... is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

➤ Jesus wants to give you eternal life! He wants to spare your eternal soul from a place of judgement, a place of suffering, and a place of eternal torment. He wants to give you a more abundant life! He wants to give you His love, mercy, and grace! He wants to give you peace, joy, happiness, and fulfillment in life and hope for your future! He wants to give you Salvation from your sentence of eternal death!

➤ If you will open the door to your heart and let Jesus come in to be Lord of your life, then you will gain all that Heaven has to offer, but you must open the door

Don't allow the noise of the world, the voice of the devil or the voices of those around you to keep you from hearing the call of God to open your heart to Him!

I believe that Jesus is standing at another door this morning! He is standing at the very door of time and it won't be long until He swings the door open and steps out of the Throne Room of Heaven onto the portals of time to bring His faithful children home! It won't be long until all that we know and see in this world will be gone forever and the new Heavens and new Earth will be brought into completion and we will step through the door into eternity!

Are you ready for that day? Have you opened the door for Jesus to come into your heart? Are you ready to meet Him when He comes again?