

Somebody's Knocking...

Look at me. I stand at the door. I knock. If you hear me call and open the door, I'll come right in and sit down to supper with you. Revelation 3:20 The Message

Most of us have at least heard about incredible multitudes of people brought into salvation knowledge through the usage of this piece of scripture. This verse has served as a great tool over the years for reaching the lost. Of course, we all realize that this passage wasn't originally spoken to unbelievers at all, but to a church of believers who had invited everybody they could think of to become involved in their life with only one exception ... GOD!

The church of the Laodiceans had allowed themselves to go to a place where they had forgotten about their very real need for God. They, like so many of us today, had been lured into thinking that they were rich in possessions, immersed in the favor of God and that they were in need of nothing at all. They were enjoying the blessings of God without fully understanding His purposes and desire to show to them more. The idolatry of individualism had caused them to forget the greater cause for which they had been brought into the Kingdom and they were much like many today, content to live a life without real intimacy with their heavenly father.

Stop for a moment and attempt to develop this picture in your mind. Can you see it? The God of the Universe, The Father of all Creation, standing on the outside of our lives, patiently asking for permission to come in and to participate with us. God isn't satisfied with our relationship with Him. He desires more!

I've just recently heard of a survey conducted that asked Americans a very simple, yet interesting question. The study asked people to describe a phrase, a simple statement, that they were the most interested in hearing from people in their life.

The answers received were incredible! I want to share with you the top three answers to this survey.

SURVEY SAYS: ANSWER #1 ... "I love you!"

Even though we live in the richest nation on the planet even though we possess the nicest homes, the fastest cars, and the thickest wallets—people still long to hear these three simple words spoken into their lives. "I love you!"

Many constantly hear reports that describe the many things which are obviously lacking, definitions of where they have, without argument, miserably failed, along with the painful details regarding how they could be doing better if only they tried a little harder. Employers have heard about a growing number of grievances and employees hear about the increase in the lack of loyalty. Moms and Dads hear about too much control while our kids hear about grades too low. What people aren't hearing, however, is that somebody loves them any way!

SURVEY SAYS: ANSWER #2 ... "I forgive you!"

Too many people are quick to point out all that is wrong and how all that wrong has impacted their situation. All too often, it's easy to ride that horse until it drops over dead due to exhaustion. We consistently carry grudges and allow the pain of our past to torment our present and sabotage our future. Not one of us is without fault. None of us are perfect. Yet, what each of us apparently have in common is the need to experience the freedom that "I forgive you" easily affords. People of all races and nationalities expressed their desire to hear someone offer them this gift of grace. Isn't it interesting to note that a great percentage of our countrymen realize their need for forgiveness? We know we've been wrong, but we also realize that, at this point, it is too late to do anything to change it now. We possess no way or power to repay the debt. Somebody needs to cancel the debt for us and release us to move on.

SURVEY SAYS: ANSWER #3 ... "Supper is ready!"

This particular answer blew me away. Who would have thought that the majority of Americans would possess a similar desire to be told to drop everything and come to the table? Thousands of people responded, though, with the same desire. People are hungry for the atmosphere that can only be produced through relationship. Knock, knock. Who's There? You. You, Who? You who have ears to hear!

Many of the people that you'll be coming into contact with today possess a great desire to hear somebody say to them, "I love you." Among those same people, there is also a great number of them who need to experience the freedom that only an "I forgive you" can produce. These first two statements are very much like the outside of the greeting card that, once opened, invites them into a loving relationship of intimacy. People are hungry for the atmosphere that can only be produced through relationship. People need to be needed. They want to be wanted.

Isn't it awesome to realize that Jesus came with the purpose of fulfilling each and every one of these three desires? He was sent to earth to bleed, die, rise, and ascend to demonstrate the fact that our Heavenly Father loves us! We need to inform those around of about the amazing grace and undying love that God is offering to mankind. Not only should we inform the public at large that they are loved, but we might want to let them know that they're also forgiven! God is attempting to tell America exactly what she is crying out to hear. "I love you AND I forgive you!"

On top of all of that... if only we would take pause within our busy lives and turn off the noise long enough to listen, we would hear an incredible invitation. "Supper's ready. Let's eat!" A table has been prepared, even in the midst of our enemies! Even though there is a majority of Americans who possess a desire to enjoy a sit-down-dinner with someone who sincerely loves them and has released them from their shortcomings ... God's desire for that very same thing is so much greater!

"Behold! I stand at the door and knock. Can anyone hear me? Open the door and I'll come in. I want to have dinner with you. Oh, and by the way ... I didn't come empty handed AND I'll hang around to help you with the dishes!"

Knock, Knock. Who's there? Why don't you open the door and find out?

We love you__
Pastors Thom and Shelby