



Jesus is Knocking at your Door this Christmas!

Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me. (Revelations 3:20)

Jesus stands, lantern in hand, at night-time outside a door that is overgrown with foliage. The house too looks neglected and sad. Clearly something is wrong. Jesus' face is in the shade. Even his halo does not brighten the visage. He knocks at the door which does not appear to have a knob or latch. Jesus is splendidly dressed, but he wears a spiky crown entwined with thorns. Regal, yes, but also vulnerable. In the background is a garden that looks autumnal. The presence of apples on the ground hints at the possibility of nourishment, but reinforces the sense that not only is it late in the day, but it is late in the year. He looks at the viewer pleadingly. The door might remain shut and he will not force it. The time to respond is running out.

Reflection:

What about your relationship with Jesus? Is Jesus knocking on your door to no avail? Do you make time to hear Jesus, to just be aware of his presence? As you look at the door in the picture, you will see that there is no knob or latch. If the door is to be opened, the person on the inside must answer the knock. Jesus is knocking on your door this Christmas. Will you open the door? Or like the inn-keeper that first Christmas, will you have no room for Jesus?

When Jesus knocks at your door, does the door open easily and smoothly? Are you someone who is always inviting Jesus into your life? When you hear Jesus knock, do you stop what you're doing and immediately answer his call? Or is your door like the one in the painting? Is it covered with overgrown vines and branches because you haven't opened it in a very long time? Is it so long since you have answered the door that you aren't even sure that you really heard a knock?

Jesus will wait patiently. He will not break down the door. He will not force a relationship. It is up to you to hear and answer his knock. Jesus is standing at the door knocking this Christmas. Jesus wants a relationship with you. He wants you to open the door of your heart. No-one can open that door for you. You have to choose to open the door. Are you willing to invite Jesus in this Christmas?

Painting by William Holman Hunt (1853-54)