

Knocking at the Door

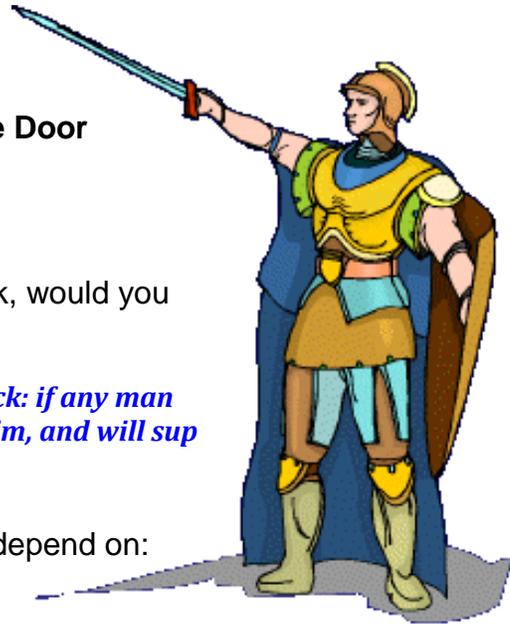
Introduction:

If I show up at your front door and begin to knock, would you open the door?

Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

Whether or not you open the door for me might depend on:

- Do you know me or not
- Am I bringing good news or bad news
- Am I coming to get you into serious trouble *[you would ignore my knocking perhaps]*
- Am I coming to invite you to a great party *[you might hurry to open the door!]*



In Matthew Jesus tells a story about a king inviting some people to a wedding and banquet for his son. To the King's surprise all of the guests that he chose refused to come. Let's see if we can understand why they wouldn't come and what the King did about it.

Matthew 22:2-14

2 The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son,

3 And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come.

4 Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage.

5 But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, and another to his merchandise:

6 And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them.

7 But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.

8 Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy.

9 Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage.

10 So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests.

11 And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment:

12 And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless.

13 Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness, there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

14 For many are called, but few are chosen.

Who was on the Guest List?

Just before Jesus tells this story, we see in Matthew Chapter 21 that the Jewish religious leaders were questioning His authority. They would have liked to throw Him in prison.

Now isn't it amazing the Chief Priests and Pharisees wanted to take the Man that is fulfilling all of the Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah and was working all of these miracles and wanted to stop all of His Miracles and then kill Him?

In this story, Jesus is saying that the guests on the King's list were God's chosen people, the Hebrew nation. Throughout the Old Testament up until the time of Jesus' story, God had done great things for His chosen people. He had promised them eternal life, if they would accept His invitation, but they continued, for the most part, to turn away from God and do what was evil.

Today we can say that it was really dumb for the Jews, God's chosen people, to reject God's invitation to the Marriage of His Son in this story. Just as it is incredible that they rejected God's authority in the Old Testament and rejected Jesus, the Messiah, when He came and did great miracles while He preached eternal life.

The Jewish people wanted a miracle working God to do great things FOR THEM on THEIR own terms rather than surrender their will to the will of God.

Unfortunately this is a problem in all people, not just with God's chosen people. We want God working for us, not us working for God.

Who went to the Wedding?

In the Matthew 22 story, the King invites everybody. He told his servants to go into the highways and invite anyone and everyone to his son's wedding.

This part of Jesus' story is about offering salvation to everyone. In the Bible, anyone that is not a Jew, God's chosen people, is called a Gentile.

During this period of time in history, the Jewish people looked down on anyone that was not a Jew. They felt that the Gentiles were almost sub-human. Jews sometimes called the Gentiles "dogs".

God never felt this way. God had many people that followed and worshiped Him before the Jewish nation was formed. God's plan for salvation always included anyone that will come to Him in repentance. The whole plan for God's chosen people was so that God could introduce His Law and through His chosen people would come the Messiah, Jesus.

Who got kicked out?

If the King invited everybody then why did he kick someone out?

In the story, it says that a man did not have on a wedding garment. Jesus says that everyone that accepts Christ as their Savior will be clothed with the righteousness of our Savior, Jesus. The wedding garment is a picture of the righteousness of Jesus.

Luke 12:35-38

35 Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning;

36 And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately.

37 Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.

38 And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants.

Here is another illustration of Christians, the born-again, waiting to be called to the wedding. It, too, says we are to be dressed for the wedding and ready to go.

Are you dressed for the wedding? Are you born-again? Are you ready to go?