

OPENING THE DOOR

It was while I was driving my daughter back to university on Monday morning that I began realizing I had no idea what to write about for my mid-week message. I said a short prayer after leaving the university trusting God would provide me with some inspiration. It will come as no surprise to anyone reading this that my inspiration came after stopping into a Tim Hortons in London.

I had already had a large double-double coffee on the car ride to London, but I felt led to enjoy another cup on the drive home. As I entered the Tim's location, I spotted a customer whose hands were full carrying a tray of coffees and donuts. I asked her if she would like help opening the door which she quickly agreed to. After doing a good deed, it was my turn to receive one back. My hands were not full as I was only carrying one double-double, but a customer saw me approaching the door to leave and held it open for me. Naturally I thanked the man for doing this for me, and as soon as I opened my own car door, I realized God had just provided me with the inspiration for this week's message.

Monday morning was not the only time recently that I both helped and needed help opening doors. Nadine and I painted some of the doors in our house just over a week ago. After painting the front and back doors, we had trouble opening both. The problem for us was our dog Daisy was scratching at the door at that moment needing to be taken out. We pulled and yanked as hard as we could at the newly painted doors, but neither was opening. The dog was giving us a worried look, and Nadine and I were giving each other the same expression. Finally, I was able to open the front door after running a butter knife along the painted edges of the door. Daisy was relieved, but it took us about an hour of sanding the edges of both doors before they could be consistently opened.

My mother has been having some problems of late too getting her one door unlocked. It has happened two times recently, and, on both occasions, I received a call to help when I was out of town in London and Innerkip respectively. I had to find other people to come and help her unlock her door both times. Monday morning's incident, along with my mother's and our experience at opening doors, reminded me how Jesus sometimes finds the same thing when it comes to our hearts.

In **Revelation 3:14-22** Jesus sent a message to the church in Laodicea commenting about their change in attitude toward Him by becoming more and more indifferent. The people in the Laodicean church were wealthy and were so focused on enjoying worldly pleasures that they had become indifferent toward their relationship with Christ. In order to encourage them to change their indifferent attitude, Jesus said to the people in them:

**Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends.
(Revelation 3:20)**

Jesus truly reveals here His desire to have fellowship and a relationship with each and every one of us. He is both patient and persistent as we see from Him knocking on the door of a person's heart hoping they will not keep shutting it on the close relationship they once had with Him. This was the case with believers in Laodicea. Would this scenario also describe where we may be right now with respect to our relationship with Jesus?

- ***Is He knocking on the door to our hearts because we have become indifferent toward Him?***
- ***Are we hearing His voice as He knocks, or are we ignoring it or drowning Him out with our own voice and opinions?***
- ***Are we opening the door of our hearts to His life-changing presence and fulfillment or are we keeping it on the other side of the door?***

In these days and times, we see more and more people becoming indifferent toward having a relationship with Christ, or being part of His church, or reading His Word, or praying to Him. Let's make sure we are not following in this pattern by closing the door to our hearts. By leaving the door to our hearts consistently open to Him, we will discover a fulfillment in life that can only be found in a committed relationship with Him.

In case some might be wondering, the doors to my usual Tim Hortons did reopen last week. When I entered the doors for the first time it was impressive to see the changes made inside in such a short time. Even more impressive changes are seen when we let Jesus enter the door of our heart.

Keep safe and God Bless,

Pastor Dean