

Listen for the Knock!

About 2 weeks ago Pastor Charlie let the elders know that he would be out of town and asked us if any of us would like to preach this weekend. I felt a nudge from God and said yes, I would preach, I had no idea what I was going to preach about.

Next thing I heard was "Listen for the Knock" I heard it in my spirit and I knew that God had just given me the title for this message.

This is not how I usually get a message, but it has been an interesting journey. So of course, in true Rodney fashion, I googled it and began to study every Knock scripture I could find. So, let's see what God had to say as we Listen for the Knock!

In the Bible, "knock" has several meanings, most notably as a metaphor for persistent prayer and seeking God's guidance, as seen in Matthew 7:7. It is also used literally in stories like [Jesus standing at a door and knocking](#) to ask for entry, as in Revelation 3:20, and in other accounts where someone knocks for admission.

Lots of Red letters coming up in these scriptures – lets see what Jesus has to say!

Matthew 7:7-8 - "Ask, and the gift is yours. Seek, and you'll discover. Knock, and the door will be opened for you. For every persistent one will get what he asks for. Every persistent seeker will discover what he longs for. And everyone who knocks persistently will one day find an open door.

- *Asking: A verbal petition, often humble.*
- *Seeking: A more active and diligent effort to find what is needed.*
- *Knocking: The most intensive action, implying persistence and a request for admission or a breakthrough when the way is closed.*

Listen for the Knock!

- *Ask for the gift, Seek to discover, Knock and the door will be opened to you – persistence is required for all 3 of these.*
- *Knock persistently and you will one day, find an open door, be patient, keep knocking!*
- *The law of receiving involves three – fold action, Asking, Seeking and Knocking. At times we must keep knocking for a door to open. A believer should never be afraid of being rejected by the Heavenly Father or of receiving a negative gift when asking God for something good, as He is the giver of all good gifts as it says in Luke 11:13.*

Now let's take a look at **Luke 11:5-13**

5) Then Jesus gave this illustration: "Imagine what would happen if you were to go to one of your friends in the middle of the night, pound on his door, and shout, 'Please! Do you have some food you can spare?'

6) A friend just arrived at my house unexpectedly and I have nothing to serve him.'

- *It was the culture of the day to honor every guest and provide a meal when they arrived.*

7) But your friend says, 'Why are you bothering me? The door is locked and my family and I are all in bed. Do you expect me to get up and give you our food?'

- *Homes of Christ's day did not include numerous individual bedroom's for all the children. At times several children shared one room and at other times the children shared rooms with their parents. So if the father awoke and started walking around he risked waking up the whole family.*
- *We should never hesitate to ask God for what they need, seeking him until they find the answer they are seeking.*

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8) I tell you—because of your shameless persistence, even though it's the middle of the night, your friend will get up out of his bed and give you all that you need.

9-10) So it is with your prayers. Ask and you'll receive. Seek and you'll discover. Knock on heaven's door, and it will one day open for you. Every persistent person will receive what he asks for. Every persistent seeker will discover what he needs. And everyone who knocks persistently will one day find an open door.

- ***Bother your friend enough and they will meet your need, Jesus is the one telling us this parable, so it is with your prayers.***
- ***Persistence in all things... persistence gets the job done!***
- ***I have personally both failed and succeeded in this area of my spiritual life, multiple times. We should always be persistent.***
- ***If you not don't question your results.***

11) Let me ask you this: Do you know of any father who would give his son a snake on a plate when he asked for a serving of fish? Of course not!

12) Do you know of any father who would give his daughter a spider when she had asked for an egg? Of course not!

13) If imperfect parents know how to lovingly take care of their children and give them what they need, how much more will the perfect heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit's fullness when his children ask him."

- ***Our heavenly father is much better than our earthly parents!***
- ***Matt 8:7&8 and Luke 11:9&10 - These four verses are all about what God wants to give us – Himself! His presence, blessings, favor and ability to overcome anything this world throws at us.***

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Luke 12:35-40 – Be Ready

35) "Be prepared for action at a moment's notice.

36) Be like servants anticipating their master's return from a wedding celebration. They are ready at a moment's notice to unlock and open the door for him.

- *Waiting for a master: In Luke 12:36, servants are told to be ready to open the door for their master when he comes home and knocks.*

37) What great joy is ahead for those who stay awake and wait for their Master's return! He himself will become their servant and wait on them.

38) He may appear at midnight or even later, but what great joy for the awakened ones whenever he comes!

39) Of course, if they knew ahead of time the hour of their master's appearing, they would be alert, just as they would be ready if they knew ahead of time that a thief was coming to break into their house.

40) So keep being alert and ready at all times. For I promise you that the Son of Man will surprise you and appear when you don't expect him."

- *What is your master going to do right before you open the door? He's gonna knock!*
- *Now, this next verse should make you stop and think:*

Listen for the Knock!

- *The Knock you are warned about...*
- *The Knock you don't want to hear or make!*

Luke 13:25 - Once the head of the house has shut and locked the door, it will be too late. Even if you stand outside knocking, begging to enter, and saying, 'Lord, Lord, open the door for us,' he will say to you, 'I don't know who you are. *You are not a part of my family.*'

- *Make sure you're already part of the family so you're on the inside of this door when King Jesus closes it. Those on the inside will enjoy the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. Those on the outside will have to endure the Great Tribulation.*
- *Just as God shut the door on Noah's Ark when the rain began to fall, leaving the unbelievers on the outside and protected 8 faithful souls from the flood – there is a set time to accept Christ. Once the door of redemption is closed and people stand before Christ at the judgement it will be too late to repent for wrongdoing. At the final judgement they will be cast out of the Kingdom and separated from God for all eternity.*

Listen for the Knock!

- *King Jesus wants an intimate relationship with you – His beloved, His Bride, His Church*
- *Let's take a step back in time and see what the Old Testament has to say about that knock?*

Song of Solomon 4:16 – 5:2

The Shulamite Bride

4:16) Awake, O north wind!

Awake, O south wind!

Breathe on my garden with your Spirit-Wind.

Stir up the sweet spice of your life within me.

Spare nothing as you make me your fruitful garden.

Hold nothing back until I release your fragrance.

Come walk with me *as you walked*
with Adam in your paradise garden.

Come taste the fruits of your life in me.

- *Me = Jesus / Father*
- *Once your Garden is ready Jesus will come to you*

The Bridegroom-King

5:1) I have gathered from your heart, my equal, my bride,

- *Once we are all His... fully yours we are gathered from our hearts and we become His equal. Can we really grasp the reality of this in our carnal minds?*

I have gathered from my garden all my sacred spices—even my myrrh.

I have tasted and enjoyed my wine within you.

Listen for the Knock!

I have tasted with pleasure my pure milk, my honeycomb, which you yield to me.

I delight in gathering my sacred spice, **all the fruits of my life I have gathered from within you, my paradise garden.**

- *Jesus references the taste of your garden twice reinforcing his message.*
- *Jesus is patient he wants us to walk with him until we are all His!*

Come, all my friends— feast upon my bride, all you revelers of my palace.

Feast on her, my lovers!

- *Jesus will introduce us to all his friends when the bride is ready*

Drink and drink, and drink again, until you can take no more.

Drink the wine of her love. Take all you desire, you priests. My life within her will become your feast.

- *My life within her (the bride) will become your feast, we will overflow with Jesus when we are ready to be the bride.*
- *Verses 4:16 – 5:1 set the stage for what comes in verse 5:2*
- *Let God breath on you and awaken your spirit man*
- *We need to ask God to make us His fruitful garden*
- *Walk with me as you walked with Adam in the Garden!*

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Jeremiah 31:12 - They will come, singing for joy on the heights of Zion, and the goodness of Yahweh will make them radiant.

Yahweh will bless them with grain, new wine, olive oil, flocks, and herds. They will be prosperous and grow like a well-watered garden, with no reason to be discouraged.

- *We will sing and be radiant, we will know all of God's goodness*
- *Our life will become a well watered garden.*

John 15:1-2 Jesus the Living Vine

- 1) "I am a true sprouting vine, and the farmer who tends the vine is my Father.
 - 2) He cares for the branches connected to me by lifting and propping up the fruitless branches and pruning every fruitful branch to yield a greater harvest.
- *The Father tends the garden!*

The Shulamite Bride

5:2) After this I let my devotion slumber, but my heart for him stayed awake.

I had a dream. I dreamed of my beloved— he was coming to me in the darkness of night.

- *Think of Jesus in the garden of Gethsamane.*

The melody of the man I love awakened me.

- *She is now awakened from sleep by Him, although she was keeping watch with her heart so that she might hear his voice at once when He knocked.*
- *Before you hear the knock listen for the melody of the man I loved.*

Listen for the Knock!

I heard his knock at my heart's door as he pleaded with me:

- *Even though you are asleep, if only Christ has come to know the devotion of your soul, he comes and knocks at the door and says open to me my sister. Our marriage is spiritual and not carnal.*
- *We will talk about this knock more when we look at Revelation chapter 3.*
- *ESV* – I slept but my heart was awake, a sound! My beloved is knocking
- *KJV* – the voice of my beloved that knocketh

The Bridegroom-King

Arise, my love. Open your heart, my darling, deeper still to me.

Will you receive me this dark night?

There is no one else but you, my friend, my equal.

I need you this night to arise and come be with me.

You are my pure, loyal dove, a perfect partner for me.

My flawless one, will you arise?

For my heaviness and tears are more than I can bear.

I have spent myself for you throughout the dark night.

- *Compare this verse to Revelation 4:1 when we read it next.*

Listen for the Knock!

Revelation 3:19-22

19) All those I dearly love I unmask and train. So repent and be eager *to pursue what is right*.

- In the ESV it says "I reprove and discipline... so be zealous and repent."
- ***To be zealous - be filled with or show great energy, passion and enthusiasm for the Lord – strong devotion to – active commitment***

20) Behold, I'm standing at the door, knocking. If your heart is open to hear my voice and you open the door *within*, I will come in to you and feast with you, and you will feast with me.

- ***This is an invitation to open one's heart to Him.***
- ***a key verse about Jesus knocking on the door of a person's heart to invite them into fellowship.***
- ***Not only do we need to listen for the knock but His voice as well.***
- **John 10:27** - My own sheep will hear my voice and I know each one, and they will follow me.
- ***After we hear his voice we have to open the door to our hearts. Then Jesus will enter our hearts and sit with us and eat with us. Just like he did with His disciples on the shore of the Sea of Galilee.***

21) And to the one who conquers I will give the privilege of sitting with me on my throne, just as I conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.

22) The one whose heart is open let him listen carefully to what the Spirit is saying now to the churches.

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Revelation 4:1 - Then suddenly, after I wrote down these messages, I saw a portal open into the heavenly realm, and the same trumpet-voice I heard speaking with me at the beginning said, "Ascend into this realm! I want to reveal to you what must happen after this."

- *Can you see some similarities to SOS 5:2 that we just read?*
- *Answer the knock on the door and then the door to heaven is standing open waiting for us to enter in.*
- *Whose door is it? I say it is the fathers door.*
- *Remember he said to listen for the knock, even if you don't hear it He wants our attention and focus to be on Him.*
- *So whether you are knocking on heavens door or He is knocking on yours you need to be persistent and pay attention focus on God and the door will be opened unto you who Listens for the Knock.*