

No Solicitors, Please! by Laura Shaw

For some reason, I get a lot of solicitors at the door. It drives me crazy! The kids start yelling, the dog starts barking loud enough to make my heart beat out of my chest...huge disruption to the day. You know what I do? I hide. Yep. Sad, but true. The windows in the middle of my door are see thru, and the huge arch window above my door shows upstairs. What do those solicitors do except take two steps back and look through that big window?!?! All I want to do is see if it's somebody important, someone "*worthy*" of interrupting my time, but it's almost impossible without being seen by the one knocking.

Well, the Holy Spirit led me to this verse this morning when I read his words to the church of Laodicea in Revelation 3:14 and following:

“These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation. I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing. But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so that you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with Me.

To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on His throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

Do you see the comparison the Spirit revealed to me? It's not a good idea to hide from God when he's knocking. Often we hear the verse, 'Here I am! I stand at the door and knock' in the context of bringing a new person to salvation. But do you see the end? He says, 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says TO THE CHURCHES.' He's talking to US! He loves us, and He wants us to invite Him in...even when it's inconvenient...the kids are yelling, the phone is ringing, the piles of work are all around us, and so on.

The reality is that often times we are lukewarm, if not in our actions, at least in our hearts and minds. We become apathetic to the widow next door. We see a drunk on the street and immediately judge him. We forget to encourage one another, we refuse to stay silent when we're provoked (gotta fight back and protect ourselves); we're defensive, lazy, self-indulgent, unforgiving, self righteous. This scripture in Revelation says 'Those whom I love, I rebuke. So be earnest, and repent.' Whatever lukewarm act or thought we are knee deep in, He wants us to dry ourselves off and earnestly ask for forgiveness. Then he wants us to turn away from it for good and be overcomers with His help.

Just like a solicitor, God doesn't phone us and tell us He's coming over. He knocks when He pleases...and in the context of this verse, He knocks when our hearts have become neither hot nor cold. Unlike those who come to my door several times a day, I cannot hide from Him either. He sees, He knows, and He's going to keep knocking until I answer, barking dogs and all.

Today, this day, let's open the door of our hearts and minds WIDELY. When we do, let's buy from Him refined gold for our poverty, white clothes for our nakedness, and salve for our blindness. After He's made the sale, He will come in and fill us full with His truth, His power, His peace...we will be fuller of Life than ever. We will talk

to Him and tell Him our thoughts, our fears, our doubts. We will give Him praise when He sits with us because it will be overflowing.

I hear the doorbell. I say, "I'm coming, Lord! I see you, and you are WORTHY of my time! Am I worthy of yours?" He says through the door, "You betcha! Let me in, my child! Let's feast together!"