

nov 10

familiar friday - when Jesus came to my house

"behold, I stand at the door and knock. if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. " rev 3:20

i would just like to say there was a day when Jesus came to my house and i finally let Him in. can i tell you about it?

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one day Jesus came to my door and i wouldn't even let Him in. He was a persistent fellow though, enough so that at times i found Him to be a bother. i always felt guilty and convicted by His coming so i refused to let Him in. this little shiny thing or another dainty i wanted to partake of kept me from opening the door.

sure, sometimes i would chat with Him at the door but that was as far as i really wanted to go. i couldn't imagine a prolonged visit - and what would i do if He wanted to rent that empty room i had? i already felt too much discomfort with the chats. and what if He became so much at home He wanted to rearrange the furniture. God forbid. i had things just as i wanted them.

then for several years it seems He quit knocking. or at least, i couldn't hear a knock. (it's strange how our senses get dulled like that.) so things were going along fairly well and i was enamored by those shiny

things that were always there to draw our attention away - away from crucial things that really matter.

i didn't know how crucial they were until all the glitter in my life turned to garbage. the things that used to fill me with wonder now filled me with dread. i didn't know where to turn. i needed a friend to talk to. someone who would listen even if they didn't have any answers for me.

it was then, if i strained, i could hear a gentle tap at the door once again. a little reluctantly, i opened the door and invited Him in - just so i could have someone to talk with. we finally had that chat He had so long tried to have with me.

it turned out He knew about all the anxiety, confusion and hurt i was feeling. it turns out He wanted to lift those pressures from me, along with the guilt and conviction which accompanied His presence. wow! why had i put this off for so long?

yes, He did want to stay in my house - but only for a little while. He was in the process of building a whole new place to inhabit and He wanted me to stay there with Him - forever! now let me see if i understand this correctly. if i let You move in my house, rearrange and do whatever You want ... for just a little while ... You will take me to this much more glorious place that You are preparing. is all that right?

He assured me i had understood everything correctly. in addition to all that He said, "i'll only take as much

room as you are willing to give me. i'll only move things around if i have your permission."

what could i say? symbolically i "waved the white flag" of surrender. here i am Lord, do as You will with all i have.

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i hope i have told my little story in a somewhat entertaining way that might peak your interest. it's true though. God's wants us to spend eternity with Him so much He suffered horribly to make it possible. Jesus gave that we might learn to give. He loved that we might learn to love. He died that we might learn to live. the more we die to self He fills that void with Himself and there are joys unspeakable for those sacrificing their uttermost.

but He doesn't love the stragglers any less; those late comers without time to sacrifice. He's offering this free, amazing gift to the "whosoever wills". yes, there may be difficult and trying times even with Him walking beside us. He doesn't promise it all in this world, only in the next. we are fully persuaded that "that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." rom 8:38-39 we may be in the storm but the storm doesn't have to be in us.

there is much that can be had in the here and now.

"draw near to God and He will draw near to you." james 4:8 it only takes commitment to enter into His holy realm. commitment and trust. i have often said: "salvation is free, but intimacy will cost you everything." the good thing is, the Creator of time can make it happen in the blink of an eye.

how much of self are you willing to give for that which can never be bought? just as the tongue is hard to tame, the will is hard to surrender. but in my spirit i can hear Him whisper, "if you will do less, i can do more".

"He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief." matt 13:58 only we limit a limitless God. "not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit," says the Lord of hosts." zech 4:6 dare to believe Him for things He places in your heart. He has said "He shall give you the desires of your heart." psa 37:4

and by all means, answer the door! He will come in. He has a sumptuous feast in the making and it is about ready to be served.