

“Emoji’s of the Faith: Door”



Revelation 3:20:22

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As we continue the Emoji’s of Faith series we on Emoji 3 of 4. We began the Sunday after Easter with the Emoji of the Angel...reminding of the angel at the empty tomb of Jesus who shared with those that had gathered... “He is not here! He is risen!” Last week the Feet Emoji. Jesus said “Follow me!” We had 17 students that had Confirmation and confirmed their faith and publically declared that they would follow Jesus. Today you heard in scripture about a door.

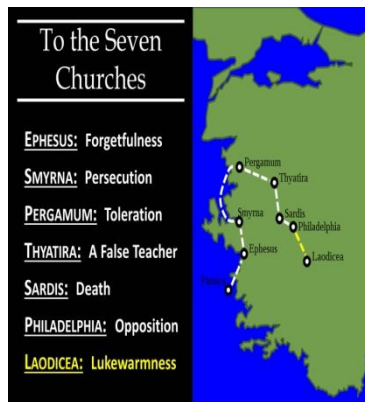
We recognize today eight 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders of S.T.A.G.E.S which stands for Spiritual Transformation And Growing Everlasting Faith. They have opened the door, if you will, to learning what it means to grow in faith. We also today recognize 35 8<sup>th</sup> grade students graduating from our ministry through Westlake Christian School. The door has been opened and we are sending them out the door if you will with the hope and prayer that as they go through the door of the High School they will enter they will do so with prayer and faith.

So the Emoji of faith today is a door. There are many types of doors we encounter. Screen door (**image**), sliding glass door (**image**), revolving door (**image**), wooden door (**image**), and we even have doggie doors (**image**.) And an interesting concept is that door that is very secure. (**image**). This last door indicates that you really don’t want anybody to get in. Let’s talk about who we want to come in our “door.”

I must confess this has happened to me, I don’t know about you. (**image**) There have been times when I have pushed on a pull door or pulled on a push door. It’s printed right there and yet I don’t obey. It’s printed right here in the Bible...and yet we don’t obey.

So let’s look at the context of this passage in Revelation about a door. The Disciple John is the writer of the Book of Revelation and he says this: **Revelation 1:9-11 New Living Translation (NLT) <sup>9</sup> I, John, am your brother and your partner in suffering and in God’s Kingdom and in the patient endurance to which Jesus calls us. I was exiled to the island of Patmos for preaching the word of God and for my testimony about Jesus. <sup>10</sup> It was the Lord’s Day, and I was worshiping in the Spirit. Suddenly, I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet blast. <sup>11</sup> It said, “Write in a book<sup>l</sup>everything you see, and send it to the seven churches in the cities of Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea.”**

So let’s look at a map to see where Patmos is from where John is writing and where these 7 churches are located. (**image**). It is in these first 3 chapters that John address the concern for each of these churches. (**image**)



The concern about this church of Laodicea is that is spiritually blind, it is lukewarm.

### Revelation 3:15-17 English Standard Version (ESV)

<sup>15</sup> “I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot!  
<sup>16</sup> So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.  
<sup>17</sup> For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.

The problem is they thought they had it all together. The people of Laodicea were known for their banking establishments, a medical school, textile industry. They were rich, they prospered...and well they thought they didn't need anything. We have an issue when we feel entitled; when we feel we don't need help, when we feel we have it made, when we feel we are successful. For John identifies they saw themselves with a different lens than Jesus did. And so I ask...how do you see yourself...and more importantly how does Jesus see you. The Lord wants not lukewarm but enthusiasm---woo-hoo---and commitment.

Oh they were so together, so rich, had it all...and look at them today. **(image)** Our wealth, our enduring and everlasting is not centered on accomplishments of this world, but rather a spiritual enthusiasm and commitment. They were self deluded, they deceived themselves.

Perhaps you are familiar with a classic picture of Jesus knocking at the door. It is by Warren Sallman. There are a lot of analogies and spiritual insights about this painting. However, as popular as that has been allow me to share another classic artwork that communicates some of the same things. The painting is by William Holman Hunt. It was an oil painting on canvas. Hunt first painted it in 1854. It is called The Light of the World. He would paint the same portrait 3 times.

The first version is found in Keble College, Oxford. Another version is in Manchester Art Gallery. The version we will be sowing is found in St. Paul's Cathedral in London **(image)** and was painted in Hunt's old age, his eyesight was failing and he was assisted by one of his students. It was donated to St. Paul's in 1907. It was considered so valuable and priceless that during World War II it was "evacuated", and today sits within a fire-proof box, whose doors can be closed if flames threaten.

The painting is entitled, “The Light of the World.” (**image of painting**). Sarah and I had the privilege of seeing this art work when we were in England several years ago on a John Wesley Study Tour with other clergy and spouses from the Florida Conference. So in a little different view of a sermon let’s talk about the message and interpretation of this artwork.

First the title of course...is “The Light of the World” indicated those words John had quoted Jesus saying in His gospel where Jesus said, “I am the Light of the World.”

It has been said that Hung was an agnostic, that nothing can be known about the existence of God. It was during this painting that he experienced a spiritual awakening.

First note the crown (**image**). Very realistic in that he painted this using the representation of the spikes of Palestine. In that area where Jesus was the bush and spike 3-4 inches long. The Priestly Robe and clasp. Jesus is wearing a long white robe, like one that would be worn by the High Priest. He is also wearing this clasp on his robe and outer clothes that resembles the breastplate worn by the High Priest. You see once a year the High Priest performed a sacrifice for the sins of the people. Jesus is our Great High Priest who died as a sacrifice for the sins of all people once and for all.

(**back to original painting image**) Jesus hands, if you look closely have the nail holes in his hands. As the old story says, A man asked Jesus in a dream how much do you love me, and he stretched out His hands and said... “This much.”

Notice the darkness. Is that a halo around Jesus head or the moon. It as if Jesus is standing there at the end of the day. Night is coming. That is, maybe time is running out. Perhaps Jesus has been patiently knocking all day. It’s dark, it’s night...it’s kind of scary, mysterious and even terrifying. And yet Jesus has the Lantern...because He is the Light of the World.

Notice the weeds around the door. Rusted hinges The weeds and deadwood illustrates that this stops the door from being opened. The weeds indicate sin. They are dead because without Jesus there is no life...no true life...do not deceive yourselves.

You can even notice some dead fruit on the ground. It is rotten and decayed. It has been discarded. The fruit of the spirit...love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23) are fallen to the way side...they are dead. It represents a life without the Light of the world.

Look at Jesus face. It shows patience. It does not show anger or tiredness. But is quietly waiting for the door to be answered. Jesus eyes in the painting looks directly at you. As I recall this is one of those paintings that no matter where you moved, to the left, to the right, farther back...Jesus seemed to always have His eyes focused on you.

Jesus’ feet are turned sideways away from the door. He has been knocking a very long time and is now preparing to leave.

The door as I am sure you have figured out by now is the door to our lives. Jesus is knocking wanting to come into your life. But then of course you may have notice the greatest thing about the door. It has no door knob. It has no door latch. Why.....IT MUST BE OPENED FROM THE INSIDE. You see it is our choice. Jesus can stand there knocking, waiting patiently, but we must be the ones who make the decision to open the door to have Him come in and have a relationship with us.

A more literal translation of this passage in Revelation 3:20 is this: "Here I am! I have been standing (for a long time) at the door and I am constantly knocking. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me."

<sup>22</sup> "Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches." New Living Translation.

Do you hear...are you listening?

A knock...no this is not a knock knock joke...for this is no joke.

A knock...not actually a trick or treat knock...but to receive the treat you must open the door.

A knock...to see if you are home and are listening.

A knock...someone wants to see you.

A knock....someone is knocking, "Sorry to interrupt, but I really need to tell you something."

A knock...you have a special delivery at the door.

A knock...somebody knocking wants to ask you a question.

A knock...somebody wants to tell you something.

A knock...somebody wants to come in.

So Jesus is patiently knocking at the door of your life. He wants to come into your life. But you must be the one who opens the door. And then note...If you open the door I WILL come in and I will eat with you and you with me. True fellowship.

So today is a day for you to open the door and receive Him. A day for you to open the door and eat with Him.

And so you have the opportunity to eat with Him as we celebrate Holy Communion. He invites all to His table that truly and earnestly repent of their sin and want Him to come into their life. Come and eat. Come and partake of this sacrament that says God's grace is in you. He wants a relationship with you. He's waiting. He's knocking. Come and eat.