

Behold, I stand at your door and knock

CHARACTERS: 7, doubling and extras possible.

PROPS: None

COSTUMES: Street clothes or Biblical

SETTING: Bare stage

SCRIPTURES: Rev. 3:20, Luke 2, Matthew 8, 9, 13, Luke 23

This skit was designed to be used as a discussion starter for a retreat but can be adapted to suit your situation. Performers are arranged on stage in groups. Spot light one group at a time or have performers freeze to switch from one group to the next. Alternately each of the five skit can be performed individually to allow for discussion between. Scripture references are provided.

JESUS: "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." Rev. 3:20

MARY: *(Pregnant woman stands at the door and knocks)* Behold, we stand at the door and knock.

INNKEEPER *(or Innkeeper's Wife)*: Sorry but the inns filled up with everyone for the census. Not just Jews, mind you, but Romans too. *(Disgusted)* Romans, why can't they go back to Rome and leave us alone. *(Mary grimaces and grasps her abdomen as a contraction hits. Innkeeper suddenly realizes Mary is pregnant).* Oh! A baby! And coming soon I guess you can use the stable. It's not my best but it will have to do in these circumstances.

NARRATOR: When do you relegate Jesus to second or even third best? Who or what won't you move out of the way so Jesus can have the best space?

(Jesus stands before the door of a centurion). Behold, I stand at the door and knock.

CENTURION: Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

JESUS: *(astonished)* "I tell you the truth; I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith. I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. It will be done just as you believed it would."

NARRATOR: And the servant was healed at that very hour. *(pause)* If we wait until we "deserve" Jesus will we ever let him in? Do you deserve Jesus?

JESUS: Matthew, Behold. I stand at the door and knock.

MATTHEW: *(Grateful and gracious)* Lord, come in. Join us, please. You and your disciples. And I will have my business associates and friends dine with us as well so they may hear your words.

PHARISEE: *(Contemptuously)* "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?"

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JESUS: "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

NARRATOR: If we invite Jesus in, who else do we invite to share with us? How accepting are we of others Jesus loves?

JESUS: (*beaten and suffering*) King Herod, Behold, I stand at your door and knock.

HEROD: (*Delighted*) Good. I have always wanted to see one of your miracles. If you are the Christ do something powerful. Change my water in to wine? (*Pause as Jesus does nothing*) How about a healing? Can you make this bread multiply? (*Pause and hem contemptuously*)

PERSON: He's just the carpenter's son? Isn't your mother's name Mary, and aren't your brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? Aren't all you sisters with us?

HEROD: How about walking across a puddle then? (*Pause, most disrespectfully*) Nothing? Not a word? He's a fraud. If he can't do at least a little miracle to prove himself then send him back to Pilate. I have no use for him. Carpenter's sons are a dime a dozen.

NARRATOR: Do you insist upon a person miracle before you'll invite Jesus? What do you expect from Jesus in return for inviting Him in? Do you limit Jesus because of his humanity? His commonness? How do your limits limit what he can do for you?

JESUS: "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."

NARRATOR: He knocks. What is your answer?