The Door with No Handle
January 16th, 2013

There is a famous painting by William Holman Hunt entitled *The Light of the World*. Painted between the years 1853–54 the artist depicts Jesus Christ standing at a door with a lantern in his hand. With His arm raised, Jesus is knocking on this door.

This door is shown as an old door, covered with vines, and the door has not been opened for a long time. There is no handle on the outside of this door. Even though it has not been opened for a long time, Christ stands knocking. With no handle on the outside, it shows that Christ is not one to push His way in. The door must be opened from the inside by the owner of the house. An invitation must be made before Christ would enter.

I wonder how many times Christ has visited this door? How often has He stood on the outside, knocking gently, requesting entrance? If opened, He would bring His light. If opened, He would bring His truth. If opened, He would bring deliverance from the darkness. If opened, He would bring salvation and forgiveness.

How old and rugged this door has become, weathered by many a storm. How gnarley the vines are with thorns that would tear the skin of anyone wishing to enter from the outside. How dark the covering is that has overgrown this doorway, making it almost inaccessible.

But still, standing at the door, is Jesus the Christ. Knocking gently.

People laugh when they see someone fall, don't they. It kind of looks funny for a moment until we notice they have been injured. Bruised, bleeding, laughed at, the door to their lives have been slammed shut tightly. No one is allowed in. The pain will be kept prisoner with the one who slams the door. Their enemies laugh. Jesus never laughs when one falls.

"Do not rejoice over me, my enemy; when I fall, I will arise; when I sit in darkness, the Lord will be a light to me. I will bear the indignation of the Lord, because I have sinned against Him, until He pleads my case and executes"
justice for me; He will bring me forth to the light, and I will see His righteousness. Then she who is my enemy will see, and shame will cover her who said to me, "Where is the Lord your God?..." Micah 7:8–10

Maybe the painting of this door represents your life? It certainly represented mine at one time. Maybe you are hiding out behind that door, afraid of what Jesus would say if you did open it to Him? But, open it you must if Jesus is to come in and forgive you once again. He sees you where you are. He is not surprised by your sin.

"For a righteous man may fall seven times, and rise again, but the wicked shall fall by calamity." Proverbs 24:16

The door handle is on our side of the door. It is up to us to open it and invite the Savior in.