



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 that person, and they with me.

-Revelation 3:20

The Spanish Inquisition was a horrific and embarrassing part of church history. In the 15th century, there was an increasing number of Jewish people and Muslims who were entering the country of Spain. As a result, the church told them they could only stay if they converted to Christianity. Additionally, through the Inquisitions, they tortured these new “converts” to make sure they didn’t slip back into their old religions. Our foundational verse this week paints a beautiful image that should have shut down the Inquisitions. We can’t force Jesus on someone because Jesus does not force himself on us.

Reflection:

Questions:

1. Are you familiar with the Inquisitions? Can you recall how/when you became familiar with this part of history? What has been your understanding of why they happened?
2. Which two groups of non-Christians were the Spanish most concerned with? Does this sound similar to anything that is currently happening in the Middle East and Europe?
3. Can you think of an example where you have tried to force morality on someone? Did you believe it was “for their own good”? In hindsight, did you do the right thing?
4. Read Revelation 3:20. Are you familiar with these words of Jesus? What has been your understanding of the meaning of these words? How might these words have impacted the Spanish Inquisition?
5. Which word most accurately describes your journey with Christ: morality or relationship? Explain the role of each.
6. Jesus stands at the door and knocks. We can 1) ignore him, 2) send him away or 3) let him in. Which of these three options have you tried in the past? What have you learned about how best to respond to Jesus?