

On The Doorstep With Love in Hand

By Kimberly Sowell

Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.
(1 John 4:7 KJV)

When Joan answered the doorbell, she found her friend Sarah, face beaming, holding a huge box wrapped in gold foil. "Merry Christmas! I'm dropping by for a quick minute to bring you a present."

"Hey, thanks," said Joan. "It's so big! I can't wait to open it."

Sarah's smile suddenly turned into a look of uneasiness as she shuffled her feet on Joan's doormat.

"Sarah, is something wrong?"

Sarah paused for a moment, then began, "Well, I thought you had a gift for me, too. Joe saw you in a store yesterday, and he said it looked like you were shopping for me. So, I went and bought something for you."

Joan's heart sank to her stomach and her faced turned red. "Sarah, I'm sorry. I was picking out a gift for my sister."

Sarah took the present from Joan's hands and headed for her car. "Oh, that's okay. I'll just exchange this item for something for me." Joan stood at the doorway, empty-handed and confused at her friend's concept of gift-giving.

What if all of your friends decided they only would give presents to people who also had something for them? The message in this sort of gift-giving would not be love, but selfishness. God loved the world so much that He sent Jesus to save us, even before we were willing to love Him in return (Romans 5:8). Jesus shed His blood out of love for all people, even those who would choose to reject Him.

Jesus stood at your heart's door with the gift of eternal life in His hands, and you opened that door empty-handed when you welcomed Jesus in to be your Savior. God's love is your example. The Lord has called you to love others around you. You can express that love by showing up on life's doorstep with your gift of love in hand, knowing that the lost around you who open the door may not be able to love you in return.