From the April 4, 2009 Issue

Knock, Knock

"Daddy, can I have an egg?" These words are spoken almost daily by my three-year-old Abby, and this day was no exception. It was early and I had just completed my morning exercise program. Coffee in hand, I made the egg and one for myself too. After sharing our eggs together I headed off to the shower wearing only a pair of shorts and a t-shirt.

As I walked past the front window of our home I noticed two very well dressed women coming up our walk. They wore long black overcoats and black hats. The hats I recall were small and round with a short brim. They both looked very nice.

When they rang our doorbell Abby ran into the bedroom where I was putting on a hat and a coat and said, "I'll wait in here until the strangers leave." I smiled and said, "OK, remember: these ladies are our sisters too." She smiled and I grabbed my Bible on the way out the door.

By this time the reader may know that it was Jehovah's Witnesses that had come calling. There were two ladies present and one was clearly training the other. It was a bit of a give-away as the lady doing most of the talking looked over at her friend for approval at times throughout the conversation. The one doing most of the talking was as pleasant and nice a person as I have ever met, and her friend was guarded but very polite.

The conversation opener they used was to ask if I had any idea what major issues were concerning families today. I thought to myself: this is a great opportunity and I'd better leap through this window with haste. As quickly as the trainee finished the question I answered, "I can tell you exactly what's wrong with the families in America." The lady in charge gave me a look that told me she was astonished at such a dogmatic statement. The trainee eagerly asked me to elaborate.

I said, "The problem with families is that they don't know who they are." I continued, "You see, you belong to the Father, Son, and Spirit; you always have and you always will. The Father loves you and likes you and has included you in His circle of life and love and fellowship. That's who you are - and when you don't know that you are the very thing your soul longs for, then you will hurt yourself and others trying to become it."

Well, this let us cut to the chase and the lady in charge began to explain the Jehovah's Witness' Gnostic beliefs about Jesus and the Trinity. What they said was well articulated, and I could tell that they believed it; but it became obvious that at least one of them found it lacking

They explained to me that Jesus was not God; rather He was just a moral teacher and a prophet - albeit a very special teacher and prophet. Drawing upon the logic of C.S. Lewis I asked them to name someone they considered to be a great moral teacher. They gave me a name I did not recognize and I surmised that he was most likely a well known teacher within the Jehovah's Witnesses. Let's call him Jack.

I asked "If Jack said to you, 'I am the way the truth and the life no one comes to the Father except through me' and 'I am God,' would you consider him to be a great moral teacher or would you think that perhaps a more suitable environment for Jack would be the mental hospital?"

They both stood with blank looks, and then I reminded them that Jesus did say those things. He claimed to be God, He forgave sins and healed, and He claimed to be the way that humanity would be saved and redeemed. If, then, Jesus is not God then He is no "great moral teacher." He is a nut case to be dismissed as such.

We talked a little more about the whole matter and then the lady in charge began to quote to me passages from the Bible that say that God is one. I said "Yes He is one, and that oneness has been shared with all of humanity and we have been brought safely into that oneness through the finished work of Jesus."

I then asked the two ladies if they had families- they both said they did. I asked if they considered their family one family. "Yes" came the answer. I told them that God is one God but with three distinct persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Just like one family has more than one member, so the Trinity is the One God with three distinct persons. Not three gods but one God, eternally existing as Father, Son, and Spirit.

The whole way through our conversation I assured them both that they were loved and adored by the Father, Son, and Spirit. I tried so very hard to make them feel the River of Living Water that flows though humanity and creation. I made it my conscious goal to help these ladies see more of who is Jesus without ever sounding condemning or judgmental. They are my sisters in our Adoption and I set out to treat them as such.

The Evil One is constantly speaking His message of "I am not." He whispers to us that we are not loved, forgivable, good, liked, accepted, or included. It happens to all of us, so I knew it had to be happening to them at times. It may even be that their door-knocking for the Jehovah's Witnesses was how they were medicating this feeling of "not-being".

So I tried very hard to never once speak the "I am nots" to them. Instead I wanted to bathe them in Jesus message to us – I AM! Jesus' message to us is that we are included in the fellowship of Triune God because of His action on our behalf, not because of our performances.

Well you know how the story ends, right? Well, maybe you don't know how it ends but you can fairly guess how it does not end. It does not end with the two Jehovah's Witnesses converting to Christianity and coming to my church.

But that was never the point anyway.

The day was not wasted. The last part of our conversation went like this: Insisting that the Trinity did not exist, these two ladies, especially the one in charge, would not budge on who Jesus is. Finally I asked them if we could at least all agree that, whatever we say God is, He has existed before anything else existed. They agreed, and a smile came over their faces as we found common ground.

I turned in my Bible to I John 4, and we read that famous passage where John tells us "God is Love." Turning to the trainee I asked, "If God is before all things and He is a singular thing alone in the Universe, who does He love? There has to be at least two and the Bible tells us God is Three in One."

At this the trainee folded her arms across her chest, tilted her head slightly, and quizzically said, "Huh!" In a flash the lady in charge shook my hand, thanked me for my time, and explaining that

they had a meeting to go to, literally grabbed the trainee by the arm and left.

I went back inside and watched as they walked to their car and I said, "Father, thank you for that." I knew that at least for the trainee, and perhaps the lady in charge, the Seed in them was at work. In the sighing "Huh!" of the trainee, the Spirit of Adoption could be heard shouting "Abba, Father."

I pray for them and pray that Jesus would help them know that He is in His Father and they are in Him and that He is in them. Jn 14:20

~ *Bill Winn*

The Adopted Life ©2009
www.theadoptedlife.org