



# SOUTHGATE SNIPPETS



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Do you ever stop to think about what the Lord Jesus may have looked like? We rarely focus on His physical features but rather meditate on his character. He was kind and gentle. He was never stressed or in a hurry. He could debate scripture with the religious leaders of the day as well as have time for little children. I'm sure the children loved to listen to His story telling.

He could often be serious and reprimand those who needed it. The apostle Peter was often corrected when he stepped out of line. The Lord Jesus also had patience. In the most extreme pain and sorrow He could even provide words of comfort and forgiveness to the thief, crucified with Him. Look how He dealt patiently with Thomas who doubted the resurrection.

We have very little description of what the Lord Jesus actually looked like. We imagine him being of eastern Mediterranean appearance with a tanned skin colour. The prophet Isaiah, hundreds of years earlier, described the Saviour of the world as 'He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to Him' (Isa ch53 v2). This implies the Messiah was not necessarily going to be physically attractive.

While I have very little interest in any classical works of art that depict the Lord Jesus, there is one particular painting that captured my imagination, particularly as we had a copy of it in my parents' house. It is a picture painted by William Holman Hunt. The painting shows the Lord Jesus, holding a lantern, and standing outside a closed, old wooden door. If you look carefully, there is no door handle on the outside of the door. The door can only be opened from the inside. Underneath the painting at home were the words 'Behold I stand at the door and knock.....'.(Rev ch3 v20).

The picture is a wonderful illustration of how the Lord Jesus is waiting to be invited into our lives. He never forces His way in. He is a gentleman and He waits to be asked. Have you invited Him into your life yet?

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