

HOMework

Spring 2022 | Week 12

Sermon Date 6/19/2022

MY STORY

- 1) If you were a wrestler what would be your entrance theme song?
- 2) Have you ever been told you look like someone famous, who was it?

QUICK REVIEW

- 3) What caught your attention from Sunday's message?

DIGGING DEEPER / TAKING IT HOME

Revelation 3:14-22 (NLT)

¹⁴ "Write this letter to the angel of the church in Laodicea. This is the message from the one who is the Amen—the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's new creation:

¹⁵ "I know all the things you do, that you are neither hot nor cold. I wish that you were one or the other! ¹⁶ But since you are like lukewarm water, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth! ¹⁷ You say, 'I am rich. I have everything I want. I don't need a thing!' And you don't realize that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked. ¹⁸ So I advise you to buy gold from me—gold that has been purified by fire. Then you will be rich. Also buy white garments from me so you will not be shamed by your nakedness, and ointment for your eyes so you will be able to see. ¹⁹ I correct and discipline everyone I love. So be diligent and turn from your indifference.

²⁰ "Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends. ²¹ Those who are victorious will sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat with my Father on his throne.

²² "Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches."

Two important key aspects of this whole passage are the geography and economics of Laodicea. These factors need to be considered to understand this passage at a deeper level. Author Leon Morris shares in his book *Revelation: An Introduction and Commentary* about the geography and water supply of the city.

"The imagery may be derived from the water-supply of the city which appears to have been drawn from hot springs at some distance, so that it arrived at the city

lukewarm. This forms a contrast with the hot springs at nearby Hierapolis and the cold, refreshing water at Colosse. ‘Hot water heals, cold water refreshes, but lukewarm water is useless for either purpose, and can serve only as an emetic.’”

Many Christians have used this passage to claim that being hot is good and being cold is bad, but Jesus is not saying this. Cold water is refreshing to the body and hot water is healing for the body—both are good. The reality is that the Laodiceans would have understood this based on their experience with their water situation. One of the reasons for this is that hot springs are notorious for being high in mineral content and sulfur, and as it cools to lukewarm it gets rancid. This makes people sick and they will spit it out of their mouths. It can induce vomiting if swallowed.

The economics of Laodicea were three-fold. First, they were a wealthy trade center. Three major roads came through the city, and they had a solvent banking system. Secondly, they were known for clothing made of black wool. So, they were well dressed. Lastly, they had a medical school that was renowned for a salve made for the eyes that was supposed to help people see better.

- 4) From the passage above, how does Jesus rebuke the church? In thinking about the geography I described earlier, how would they have understood this passage?
- 5) What does Jesus call them? How is that directly related to their economic situation I described earlier?
- 6) What was the sin that caused them to become lukewarm?
- 7) What does Jesus implore them to do?
- 8) What is Jesus doing and wanting to do with them?
- 9) An important thing to remember about this passage is that Jesus was talking to the church and not unbelievers. Why does that matter to us?
- 10) Why is Jesus waiting at the door, and what does that teach us about our relationship with Him?

In the cultural context of the day the picture of dining together was deeper than just a meal shared. It was about life being lived together. There is a deeper relationship behind it.

11) What does Jesus promise as a result of overcoming?

12) What is your takeaway from this study to help you avoid being or becoming “lukewarm”?

CHAIR TIME TOOLS

1) In thinking about all these churches, what is Jesus wanting you to shift in your life with Him?

2) How does Jesus show His kindness to these churches by reproofing them?