

Series: Challenging Passages that Challenge Us

Title: Tepid Faith

Text: Revelation 3:14-22; James 2:14-26; Isaiah 55:1,2,6,8; 1 Peter 1:3-9; Isaiah 61:10

Accountability: Share about any ways you applied lessons from the previous week/meeting.

Conversation Starter: What kinds of actions might result from a tepid faith in Jesus?

Synopsis: Because Jesus loved the Laodecian church, he shared some hard truth using imagery from their everyday lives that they would be able to relate to. Jesus was trying to break through their warped perspective about their own condition in hopes they would earnestly repent from having a lukewarm heart and faith in Him that was seen in their lukewarm works, words, and lives. His heart and counsel was for them to truly thrive in ways that would lead to vibrant life for all eternity.

Dig: Read the various texts above

1. Hot spring water from nearby Hierapolis was considered therapeutic, while the cold water of nearby Colosse was considered refreshing. The Laodecians would really understand why lukewarm water would be so distasteful to Jesus. Why might the tepid faith of the Laodecians be so negatively received by Jesus?
2. How would you describe the perspective of the Laodecians? How did this differ from Jesus's perspective? How might these differing perspectives impact the relationship between Jesus and the Laodecians?
3. The Laodecians saw certain things as important and worth pursuing, and other things as not as important and not as worthy of their time and effort. What works/activities might you spend time, bandwidth, and effort on? What might this mean in terms of living out Father God's will for your life?
4. Does it strike you as odd that Jesus was, in a sense, outside the door of the Laodecian church? How would you feel and what would you do if you were in Jesus's sandals? How would you feel and what would you do if you were in the sandals of the Laodecians?

Application:

1. Repentance is a huge gift from God. It means we can change our mind about our current course, and turn and go the other way. In what ways do you feel your perspective may already align with Jesus's perspective? In what ways do you feel your perspective may not align with Jesus's perspective? Are there any course correcting steps you feel God's Holy Spirit might want you to take to help align your perspective more with God's perspective?
2. Knowing God's mission and vision for our life can often be helpful in keeping our heart close to God's heart, and our works and plans aligned with His. Do you feel you have a sense of what God's mission

and vision is for your life? If so, what is it? If not, what might be some steps you can take to grow in discerning God's mission and vision for your life?

3. God's Holy Spirit can help us grow in having a strong faith that leads to works that are refreshing and therapeutic. In fact, walking more tightly with Holy Spirit can lead to dramatic changes in our hearts and lives. What steps might you be able to take to grow in walking with Holy Spirit?
4. Our workplaces, neighborhoods, and networks are filled with people who are seeking for the deep, refreshing life and therapeutic love that only Jesus can give. What might your interactions and relationships with them look like as your faith in Jesus grows stronger and stronger?