

Life Group #4: Spit
Revelation 3:14-22

Objectives: We want to see Jesus as the faithful and true one. He is the only source of true life. We want to be challenged out of our self-sufficiency and lukewarm faith. We want to respond by repenting and inviting Jesus in to our lives.

For the leaders:

Last week we talked about His incredible offer of rest for our souls. This week we will hear Jesus warn us that He will vomit the lukewarm out of his mouth. It will be a tough passage for many (including yourself) to take. However, it is given because he loves us (v. 19). Please examine your own heart before leading this. Is your life characterized by earnest zeal or by a self-sufficient lukewarm approach to God?

Getting to Know You (5 minutes)

Launch Use your own words... (3 minutes)

Has there ever been a time that you spit food or drink out of your mouth? Why?

This week we are going to look at one of the harder teachings of Jesus. As we “come and see” Jesus we want to look at passages that give us a full picture of Him. In the Book of Revelation, Jesus gives a message to 7 different churches in what is now modern day Turkey. Each of these messages were for that specific church, but also for all churches throughout history. Pray that we would see Him and have “ears to hear”.

Explore

Read Revelation 3:14-22

- **How would you describe Jesus in this passage? Why?** (*true and faithful, ruler of God’s creation, strong, harsh, loving, willing, gracious*)
- **What do you “see” in Jesus that would cause you to want to follow Him?**
- **What do you see that would cause you to not be interested in following Jesus?**
- **How does this picture of Jesus challenge your standard view of Jesus? What do you not understand?** (*write on white board-- what does it mean to be hot, cold or lukewarm; why Jesus prefers*

someone to be cold vs. lukewarm; what the gold/clothes/salve metaphor means)

Before we try to interpret this passage, it is good to understand characteristics about Laodicea when Jesus spoke these words. Laodicea was a wealthy town known for its beautiful clothes and medical expertise. They were so wealthy that when an earthquake decimated the town, they refused all outside help and rebuilt the town themselves. They were most famous for beautiful black wool and an eye salve that could cure major eye problems. Their water supply was poor so they piped in water from a hot spring that was lukewarm by the time it got to town.

- **What is the problem with the Laodicea church?** (*they are “lukewarm” spiritually. Because they are wealthy they think they don’t need to rely on God. Jesus is telling them that they DO NOT have all that they need.*)
- **How would you define lukewarm?** (*the opposite of zealous or earnest in v. 19. They know stuff about God, they are not against God, they show up to church but do not live passionately for God. They live like Christian agnostics. They do not have an intimate relationship with Jesus. Lukewarm= apathetic, indifferent Zealous= Passionate, eager, earnest*)
- **Why does Jesus think it is better to be cold or hot than to be lukewarm?** (*Cold water is good is good to drink. Hot water has many uses, especially when you are cold. Lukewarm water was not useful to drink or for bathing.*)
- **In what ways is the American church like the Laodicea church?**
- **In what ways are you like the Laodicea church? In other words, what area of self-sufficiency do you trust in more than Jesus?**

- **What does Jesus propose as a solution for their problem?** (*buy gold, clothes, etc...from HIM. v. 18*)
- **What does that mean?** (*Jesus is using a metaphor to tell them that what they need can only come from Him. White clothes in Revelation symbolizes righteousness [see 3:4,5; 19:8] c.f. Is. 55:1-4 to understand what it means to “buy” from Jesus.*)
- **How can poor people buy stuff if they don't have money? How are they to do this?**
 1. *Repent (19). Repent means a 180-degree turn. In this case turn from trusting in your wealth and situation and instead turn to God.*
 2. *Open the door (20)*
- **What is Jesus trying to communicate with the metaphor in vs. 20?** (*eating a meal together is one of the main ways to share intimacy and care with someone in this culture. Jesus is inviting all into an intimate relationship with Him*)

Apply

- **What is your next step?** (*a few options- invite him into your life, repent by turning from trusting in your sufficiency to trusting in Him, spend some good intimate time with Jesus*)
- OR**
- **What is one area of self-sufficiency that hinders your relationship with Jesus?**
 - **How can you practically “be zealous and repent” (v. 19)?**

As a leader you should be prepared to help people with their next step. First by sharing your next step. Second by helping them carry out their next step.

Memory Verse: Revelation 3:20

Announce

- Explain how Fall Retreat is a way that they can grow in intimacy and knowledge of Jesus in community with others. Have someone who has gone share a little bit about retreat.