

Church of Laodicea

Materials Needed:

Donuts and warm water to drink
Mismatched clothes to wear
Pieces of paper and pens
Someone to knock on the door.

As a result of this lesson, I want my students

TK- The church of Laodicea had become lukewarm because they thought they were rich and didn't need anything. Because Jesus loved them, He warned them that they were wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, naked and in danger of being spit out, and He invited them to come to Him in earnest repentance and receive His fellowship.
BT- One becomes lukewarm when they think they are rich and don't need anything. But Jesus desires that person to recognize their true condition and the danger they are in, and invites them to earnestly repent and receive His fellowship.
Rz- My students become lukewarm when they think they are rich and don't need anything. But Jesus desires that they recognize their true condition and danger, and invites them to earnestly repent and receive His fellowship.
Rd- by evaluating their spiritual condition and the danger they might be in, earnestly repenting and receiving Jesus' fellowship.

Approach:

Write down what you feel is your spiritual need is right now. I don't mean a prayer request, per se, but what is your need spiritually?

Transition: We have been seeing the seven churches and we are on the last one today. They all had different spiritual needs, and Jesus spoke to what each one. So far, we have "Seven churches, not far apart.." (Go through walk thru.) And then we come to the last one today. It's found in Colossians 4: .

Outline:

I. Laodicea Thinks they are rich/no need

- A. Financially stable city
- B. Medical center
- C. Hot springs
- D. "Nice Town" atmosphere

The believers that lived in Laodicea were well off. If you were to ask them to write down their spiritual need, they would have drawn a blank. "We just can't think of any." There was only one problem.

II. Jesus Loves Them; Warns of Danger

- A. Wretched
- B. Pitiful
- C. Poor
- D. Blind
- E. Naked

The Laodiceans were totally unaware of their condition.

Read letter and what Jesus says to them. Their condition was worse than all the other churches and they were totally unaware of it.

How many of you thought that I didn't really match this morning? How many of you thought that I was unaware of it? I couldn't visualize coming poor, blind and naked this morning. Yesterday we saw a lot of different people at Carowinds, and many of them seemed very unaware of

how they really looked! This is how the Laodiceans looked spiritually to God. They thought they were doing so good--and they were running around poor, blind and naked--spiritually.

Why is Jesus telling them this? What if I wrote you a letter saying, "You are wretched, pitiful..." What would you think of me? So why is Jesus writing them a letter like this?

Ex: Woman with her dressed tucked up. Jesus wasn't just embarrassed by them. He greatly loved them, and the Laodiceans were in grave danger.

Remember those hot springs?

Water was lukewarm. How many of you noticed lukewarm water?

God said, You are not hot or cold. What was He going to do?

Demonstrate spitting out lukewarm water. I had a senior student ask me one time, "Are these people Christians?" What do you think?

The issue here is NOT "Were they Christians?" The real question here is "Were they in serious spiritual danger?" Did they know it? Why were they in spiritual danger?

What would they have looked like if they were "hot" spiritually? What would they have looked like if they were "cold" spiritually? Now describe what it looked like for them to be lukewarm? The problem with the lukewarm person, is that they don't know they are lukewarm. So how do you tell them? What should be the greatest indicator to a lukewarm person that they are lukewarm? No need.

F. In danger of being spit out

1. Describe HOT
2. Describe COLD
3. Describe LUKEWARM

III. Laodiceans Invited to Earnestly Repent/ Receive Fellowship

A. Earnestly Repent

If that is the main characteristic, then what is the main solution?

Repent and acknowledge my need.

I need you Jesus--to see my true spiritual condition.

I need you Jesus--for purity.

I need you Jesus--for strength.

I need you Jesus--to value things that are eternal and not temporal.

B. Receive Fellowship

Jesus loved the Laodiceans, but He would spit them out. He was warning them, and He was inviting them to be in fellowship with Him.

Read Rev. 3:20

Have someone knock on the door.

Conclusion: It's Jesus, and he wants you to run to him with your need and have fellowship with you. "If anyone hears my voice and opens the door..." He will come in. (Have student open the door.)

Right now I want you to think. Do you know anyone in our church or in our youth group that you would say, "They are lukewarm"? I want you to evaluate yourself. Are you hot? Are you cold? Are you lukewarm? If you or someone you know are lukewarm, then you are not ready to see Jesus, because He will spit you out of his mouth. You are in great danger because you might think you are okay, and you don't know their true spiritual condition.

Would two of you pray for us?