

Revelation 3:14-22
Nauseating mediocrity

Warm Up

What's worse: tepid water, tepid tea/coffee or tepid beer? Why do we like our drinks hot or cold? Why not lukewarm?

Background and context

The letter to Laodicea is one that no one wants to get! Jesus describes the church as lukewarm, neither cold or hot, causing spiritual nausea. To Jesus, mediocrity seems to be more offensive than downright rejection of faith in Him. The message is clear - lukewarm Christians undermine the power of the gospel more than the opposition of non-believers. It appears that the church in Laodicea was materially wealthy and had put its trust in that. Jesus urges them to repent so that they can become truly rich and have their shame covered over. Those that choose to repent will sit with Jesus on his throne. That's an incentive!

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity



READ Revelation 3:14-22. What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand?

1. How does Jesus describe His response to the church at Laodicea? What does He want to do? What image does this conjure up?
2. **Read v17.** What was the sin of the Laodiceans? What was the consequence of that sin? How did Jesus describe them?
3. How can western wealth and values blind us and mask our spiritual need?
4. Some western believers equate wealth with spiritual success. Why is this wrong?
5. **Read James 2:14-25.** How can we avoid mediocrity in our faith? What must we do?
6. **Read Revelation 2:4.** What is the danger of being too focussed on works? What must we not forget?
7. How can we avoid having just a "head knowledge of Jesus" without the **heart response** to Him?
8. **Read v18.** What three things does Jesus ask us to do as an act of repentance? What do these images symbolise? (cf: Matt 6:19, Rev 7:9,13,14, Ezekiel 16:8-9)
9. What stops many churches being "hot" or "on fire" for Jesus?
10. What does Jesus offer to those who open the door to Him and repent? Is it worth it?

Discipleship and Application



11. What are the signs in a Christian's life that they are or have become lukewarm?
12. How does it make you feel, thinking that Jesus might be about to "**spit you out!**"? How should you respond?



Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.

There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.