



Scripture: Revelation 3:14–22

Hey friends, I'm really glad you're here tonight. It matters that you made space for this, even if life feels full or faith feels far away.

Let's just be real for a minute: have you ever felt like you're just coasting in your faith? You're not walking away from it. You're not angry at God. But also, you're not really growing or very passionate about your faith. It's more like you believe, you show up, you say the right things, but deep down, something feels stuck.

And it's not always on purpose. Maybe life's just been a lot lately. School, sports, family stuff, friend drama, your schedule's packed, your brain is tired, and your heart feels kind of flat. You're doing your best to hold it all together, and your faith has kind of slid into the background. It's not gone. It's just neutral.

But here's the thing: faith wasn't meant to be neutral. Following Jesus isn't something we can just coast through or casually keep on the sidelines while we live our lives.

Because the truth is when we're not moving toward Him, we're slowly drifting away. And maybe we don't notice it at first. But over time, the fire fades, the passion dulls, and our connection with God starts to feel more like a routine than a relationship.

Jesus invites us into something deeper than that. Something real. Alive. Personal. He doesn't want your faith to be just another thing on your list. He wants your heart, your questions, your time, and your trust.

So, before we jump into our study today, I am going to pray.

[Prayer]

Today, we're going to be studying a passage from the book of Revelation. And let's be real Revelation is intense. You've got dragons, beasts, plagues and it honestly feels more like *Lord of the Rings* than your average devotional. But here's the thing: Revelation isn't meant to scare us. At its

core, it's a book of hope. It reminded early believers as it still reminds us today, that no matter how hard things get, God is in control, and in the end, He wins.

And tucked into all that imagery and intensity are a series of personal letters. Jesus sent messages to real churches that were filled with real people who were trying to follow Him in a complicated world, just like us.

Now, usually, people enjoy getting mail. It's exciting and rare, so it feels personal. But these letters were different. The one we're looking at today was written to the church in Laodicea, and honestly? It's a gut punch. Jesus didn't hold back. He told the people of Laodicea the harsh truth, not to make them feel bad, but out of love. As Jesus showed, real love doesn't just comfort us; it also challenges us. It calls us out when we've settled, and it invites us into something deeper, something better.

Alright, let's open our Bibles to **Revelation 3:14–22 (NIV)**. We are going to be breaking this down into chunks so we can all track together.

Let's start by reading verses 14-16 (NIV) and what Jesus says to this church:

"To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth."

So, we just read a pretty intense passage where Jesus told the church in Laodicea that they were neither hot nor cold, and because of that, He was about to spit them out of His mouth. That's strong language. But to really feel the weight of it, we need to understand more context.

Laodicea wasn't some forgotten, struggling city. It was *that* city, like the Beverly Hills or Manhattan of the ancient world. The Laodiceans were wealthy, powerful, and proud of it. Laodicea was famous for three things: money, medicine, and fashion. They had this sleek black wool that was basically designer-level. Their medical schools were known for an eye ointment that was supposed to heal blindness. And get this: when an earthquake wrecked the city, Rome offered to help, and Laodicea literally

said, “Nah, we’ve got this.” Archaeologists even found coins from the city that said, “We did it ourselves.” That’s how self-sufficient they were.

So, what did Jesus say to the church in this powerful, put-together city? He didn’t applaud them. No, He said, “You make me want to spit you out.” Why? Because they were lukewarm. And that hit home in Laodicea. The cities around them—Hierapolis and Colossae—had water people actually wanted. Hierapolis had hot springs people used for healing. Colossae had cold, clean drinking water. But Laodicea? Their water was piped in from miles away, and by the time it got there, it was lukewarm, gross, and full of mineral buildup. Not hot. Not cold. Just useless.

And so, Jesus said their *faith* had become like their water; bland, half-hearted, not good for anything. He wasn’t just talking about water; He was talking about their hearts. They weren’t fully in, but they weren’t fully out either. They were living in the middle. Comfortable. Apathetic. Spiritually indifferent.

Okay, let’s keep reading: **Revelation 3:17–18 (NIV)**

“You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.”

Let’s break this down. Jesus called out their blind spots. The Laodicean church thought they had it all; money, influence, and success. But Jesus looked at them and said, “Actually... you’re missing everything that really matters.” He flipped their self-image completely upside down. They saw themselves as rich, but Jesus said they were poor. They thought they were well-dressed, but He said they were naked. They believed they could see clearly, but He called them blind.

But don’t miss this: Jesus didn’t just roast them to make them feel bad. Instead, He gave them a wakeup call. This was tough love. He was not pushing them away; He invited them in. He said, “*Come to Me for what you really need.*” Don’t pursue what the world said made you valuable but what would actually last.



1. What part of the message hit home for you personally, and why? (Start with honesty. Was there something in the Laodicean church you saw in yourself?)
2. How would you describe your faith right now? (Not how it should be, but how it actually is. What words or images would you use to describe it?)
3. Laodicea was proud of its wealth, fashion, and medicine. But Jesus said they were “poor, blind, and naked.” What does that reveal about how Jesus sees spiritual health?
4. Jesus says He rebukes those He loves. Can you think of a time someone challenged you in love? How did it help you grow?
5. What are some small, real steps you could take to move toward Jesus this week?
6. Who in your life helps stir up your faith when it starts to feel flat? How can you lean into those relationships more?
7. Jesus ended by saying, “Whoever has ears, let them hear.” What do you think God is trying to say to you through this passage?

This preview includes a select number of pages from this resource.

If you like what you see, download the entire resource today!

downloadyouthministry.com