



When the Spirit Speaks to the Church

All that Glitters Isn't Gold
Revelation 3:14-21

Jesus is the Truth who always sets us free, even if we first feel miserable.

Verses 14-17:

Text Message:

- Jesus addresses Himself to the Church in Laodicea in terms that are filled with both truth and authority (Verse 14).
- This is important because “not everything is as it seems” and “looks can be deceiving,” which was the case in Laodicea.
- Laodicea was the richest of the cities and boasted of a banking center, medical school, eye salve, and black wool clothing and carpets.
- The only thing the city lacked was an adequate water supply and Jesus uses this to get their attention (Verses 15-16).
- Can you imagine a more shocking revelation? Jesus says, “you say:” (verb tense is present, “You keep saying...”):
 - 1) “I am rich” **but** “You are wretched.”
 - 2) “I have prospered” **but** “You are pitiful.”
 - 3) “I need nothing” **but** “You are poor, blind, and naked.”
- Remember, the truth will always set us free (John 8:32).
- Jesus knows where we are **AND where we are heading!**

Jesus pursues us with relentless love and patience.

Verses 18-19:

Text Message:

- Two amazing things are said to this church in these verses:
 - 1) “I counsel you...”
 - 2) “Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline.”
- Let’s look at them in detail.
- First, Jesus says, “I counsel you...” He’s not commanding, or threatening, or ordering even though He holds all authority, is the embodiment of all truth, and is Creator of the Cosmos (Verse 14)! Jesus says, “I counsel you to buy from me:”
 - 1) “Gold refined by fire,” greater than their banking center!
 - 2) “White garments,” not the glossy black woolen clothes!
 - 3) “Salve for your eyes,” better than what the city produced!
- In these symbols, Jesus essentially says to the Laodiceans (and us):

“Do things my way... Follow me...”
“Get back on track...”
“I know you think you’re on the right path because things are going well outwardly but we both know better...”

Jesus is waiting- will we open the door?

Verse 20:

Text Message:

- The text ends without a resolution, because the story of the Laodiceans and Jesus waiting is repeated continually.
- The verb tenses of Jesus’ invitation could be translated: “I have taken my stand at the door, and I am knocking.”
- *Will we open the door to the “more” Jesus has for us?*
Will we dare to believe that winning is through surrender?
Will we lay our lives before Him Who laid His life before us?
- “The one who conquers, I will grant him **to sit with me on my throne**, as I conquered and sat down with my Father on His throne.” Verse 21, emphasis mine
- It doesn’t work when we try to get Jesus to sit with us on our throne- He must be Lord of our lives!



When the Spirit Speaks to the Church

All that Glitters isn't Gold
Revelation 3:14-21

Jesus is the Truth who always sets us free, even if we first feel miserable.

Verses 14-17:

Text Message:

- Jesus addresses Himself to the Church in Laodicea in terms that are filled with both truth and authority (Verse 14).
- This is important because “not everything is as it seems” and “looks can be deceiving,” which was the case in Laodicea.
- Laodicea was the richest of the cities and boasted of a banking center, medical school, eye salve, and black wool clothing and carpets.
- The only thing the city lacked was an adequate water supply and Jesus uses this to get their attention (Verses 15-16).
- Can you imagine a more shocking revelation? Jesus says, “you say:” (verb tense is present, “You keep saying...”:
 - 1) “I am rich” **but** “You are wretched.”
 - 2) “I have prospered” **but** “You are pitiful.”
 - 3) “I need nothing” **but** “You are poor, blind, and naked.”
- Remember, the truth will always set us free (John 8:32).
- Jesus knows where we are **AND where we are heading!**

Jesus pursues us with relentless love and patience.

Verses 18-19:

Text Message:

- Two amazing things are said to this church in these verses:
 - 1) “I counsel you...”
 - 2) “Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline.”
- Let’s look at them in detail.
- First, Jesus says, “I counsel you...” He’s not commanding, or threatening, or ordering even though He holds all authority, is the embodiment of all truth, and is Creator of the Cosmos (Verse 14)! Jesus says, “I counsel you to buy from me:”
 - 1) “Gold refined by fire,” greater than their banking center!
 - 2) “White garments,” not the glossy black woolen clothes!
 - 3) “Salve for your eyes,” better than what the city produced!
- In these symbols, Jesus essentially says to the Laodiceans (and us):

“Do things my way... Follow me...”
“Get back on track...”
“I know you think you’re on the right path because things are going well outwardly but we both know better...”

Jesus is waiting- will we open the door?

Verse 20:

Text Message:

- The text ends without a resolution, because the story of the Laodiceans and Jesus waiting is repeated continually.
- The verb tenses of Jesus’ invitation could be translated: “I have taken my stand at the door, and I am knocking.”
- *Will we open the door to the “more” Jesus has for us?*
Will we dare to believe that winning is through surrender?
Will we lay our lives before Him Who laid His life before us?
- “The one who conquers, I will grant him **to sit with me on my throne**, as I conquered and sat down with my Father on His throne.” Verse 21, emphasis mine
- It doesn’t work when we try to get Jesus to sit with us on our throne- He must be Lord of our lives!