

## Lukewarm Laodicea

### I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2 Susie Drake died last night. James Seastrom died a few nights ago.
- B. GS - If you have lost someone, join a caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. We begin with a session specifically for *Loss of a Spouse Aug.13th* and continue with **general sessions through Nov.12th**. Register at [calvarymurrieta.com/griefshare](http://calvarymurrieta.com/griefshare).
- C. Slide3 DC - Our 13 week **Divorce Care** will be starting **Aug 14-Nov 6th**. If you or someone you know is going through a divorce or separation please have them **email Lorrain at [britlaine@verizon.net](mailto:britlaine@verizon.net) for more information** or to register go to [www.divorcecare.org](http://www.divorcecare.org).
- D. Slide4 Ladies Night Out - Join the ladies for a *Ladies Night Out* on **Tues, Aug 15th at 7:00 pm**. We will enjoy a time of worship and a message from **Janice Orate** from *Transformation Calvary in Rancho Cucamonga*. It promises to be a wonderful night of fellowship and fun.
- E. Slide5 Jesus Revolution Movie - Sun Aug 27, 6-8pm movie night. We'll have licorice & popcorn, you're welcome to bring additional snacks. *PG-13 Drug use scenes*.
- F. Slide6 Expositors Collective - Join Kelly & I for Expositors Collective on **Aug. 11-12 at Reliance Church**. This is an *interactive training seminar* for those who desire to grow as teachers of the Word. You will hear insightful lectures, participate in Q&A panels, and more. **There is a \$99.00 fee to attend this two-day seminar**. Go to our website for more information.
- G. Slide7 Prayer: Susie Drake. James Seastrom / Mexico.

### II. Slide8,9 LUKEWARM LAODICEA READ all

- A. Ask. What are our local cities known for? *Murrieta* (top 3 safest cities per pop size, our medical centers, hogbacks), *Temecula* (wineries, Pechanga Casino), *L.E* (Lake, skydiving), *Wildomar* (?).
- 1. So, What was this city of **Laodicea** known for in that 1st century? Glad u ask'd

- B. **Slide10 BACKGROUND.** They were known for their ...
- C. **Wealth** - Laodicea was a wealthy & independent city. They were able to **rebuild** their city after an devastating earthquake in A.D. 61 *without the help of Rome*.
1. Tacitus (greatest Roman historian) writes: *One of the most famous cities of Asia, Laodicea, was in that same year over-thrown by an earthquake and without any relief from us covered itself by its own resources.* (Tacitus: Annals 14:27). It was one of the **wealthiest** cities in the world.
- D. **Medical Center** - It was a *medical center* known for an ointment for treating ears & a salve for the eyes.
- E. **Banking & Financial Center** - known for this.
- F. **Sheep** - and for their glossy *black* wool cloth.
- G. **Slide11 Location** - *map* Laodicea was *located near Hierapolis* & near Colossae.
1. **Jesus** will use each of these images for His points to the church.
  2. **So**, Laodicea was known for its *banking, medical, & clothing industry*.

### III. Slide12 JESUS (14)

- A. **He's the Amen** - the final say so. He won't change the truth, it's secure. He is the final word on the subject ... *any* subject. (Is.65:16 *the God of truth* twice = אָמֵן)
- B. **He's Faithful** - He won't *Dilute* the Truth.
- C. **The True Witness** - He won't *Distort* the Truth.
- D. **He's the beginning** (ἀρχή the 1st cause) **of God's creation** - Indicating His priority over all creation.
- E. Though outwardly the church appeared strong & prosperous, the Lord finds nothing to *COMMEND*. Though ... *they were busy commending themselves*.

### IV. Slide13 HE CONDEMNS 4 THINGS (15-19)

- A. [1] **INDIFFERENCE** (15,16) - **Lukewarm**, *not* Hot nor Cold.
- B. This imagery may allude to the water system at Laodicea:

1. The city had no water supply of its own. It had **cold water** piped in from **Colossae** (w/above ground pipes *from 8000'*) & **hot water** piped in from the Hot-mineral-springs at **Hierapolis** (w/above ground pipes).
  - a) When the water arrived in the city, it had become **lukewarm**.
  - b) Like the water, **the church** at Laodicea was **neither refreshing** (like cold water) **nor healing** (like the hot spring water).

C. In the Christian life there seem to be **3 temperatures**:

1. **A Burning Heart** - Lk.24:32 *NLT Didn't our hearts burn within us as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?*
2. **A Cold Heart** - Mt.24:12 *And because lawlessness will increase, the love of many will grow cold.*
3. **A Lukewarm Heart** - *comfortable & complacent.*
  - a) If they were **cold** they would have at least **felt it**.
  - b) Jesus says, *Give me all your Hate or all your Heart, but don't offer Lukewarm Love.*
    - (1) A lukewarm person is tepid, lacking enthusiasm, halfhearted about what he or she believes. They may possess some sense of *duty* to the church, **but** lack **true conviction & commitment**.
  - c) Imagine a **Salesman** lukewarm about sales. An **Electrician** lukewarm about handling electricity. A **Firefighter** lukewarm against dealing with fire. A **Doctor** lukewarm about disease. **Now imagine a Church lukewarm about Christ? It makes as much sense.**
4. **Or**, it could mean Hot & Cold water are both **useful**, **but** lukewarm water isn't. I wish you'd be spiritually good for something.
5. **Or**, maybe the answer is in vs.17, defining lukewarm (15,16) ... one who **needs nothing** from God. *It's living your life as if you need nothing from Him.*

D. [2] PRIDE (17a) - I am rich - thanks to its banking industry, *Laodicea* was a wealthy city.

1. Like the **city**, **the church** there had convinced itself that it was **self-sufficient** - **but** was deceived about *its true spiritual state*.
2. They said, *we're in need of nothing*; Jesus said, **w/o Me you can do nothing**.

E. [3] SELF DECEPTION (17b) - They did not know

1. This church *didn't even know* how bad off they were.
2. Smyrna thought itself poor, **but they were rich** (Laodicea was opposite)

F. [4] SPIRITUAL POVERTY (17c) - *wretched, miserable, poor, blind, & naked*

1. We laugh at the story of the Emperor w/no clothes. 2 guys who bamboozled the king with **invisible clothes** that *any fool could see*. He paraded himself in his skivvies', while all the people were saying, look at his clothes ... till one boy shouted, **the king has no clothes!**
  - a) Jesus shouted, *Laodiceans you have no clothes*. They were spiritually naked.
2. Naked speaks of **shame**, humiliation. In 2 Sam.10:4 **Therefore Hanun** (king of Ammon) **took David's servants, shaved off half of their beards, cut off their garments in the middle, at their buttocks, and sent them away. When they told David, he sent to meet them, because the men were greatly ashamed. And the king said, Wait at Jericho until your beards have grown, and then return.**

G. Slide14a I counsel you (18,19) - listen, sit there for a minute. He is our *Wonderful, Counselor*.

1. \*We not only need to be honest with **ourselves**, **but allow God** to be honest with us. Ps.16:7 **I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel.**

H. They were exhorted to grab God's: *Gold, Garments, & Eye salve*.

1. Slide14b Gold - They had *fools gold* ... they needed *gold refined by fire*. This is a metaphor for *removing sin*. Job 23:10 *But He knows the way that I take; When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold.*
2. Garments - Unfeigned Purity (white garments)
  - a) The Laodicean's could easily go to market & buy their beautiful *black wool garments*, but they needed God's *white garments of righteousness*.
3. Eye Salve - They were famous for their *Phrygian powder* mixed w/oil for an eye salve.
  - a) The *Laodicean medical school* (at the temple of Asclepius) was known for producing eye salve. Christ prescribes *His salve* as the *cure* for *spiritual blindness*.
4. Jesus will make them *spiritually rich, cover their nakedness, & heal their blindness*. (rich, clothed, & seeing)
- I. (19) As many as I love, I rebuke & chasten - After all this, He loved these lukewarm saints.
  1. He loved them enough to *chasten* them, not throw them away.
  2. He would chasten them as *proof of His love*.
- J. Repent - from their pride, and humble themselves before the Lord.
  1. Slide14c Brennan Maning, *\*In order to free the captive, one must name the captivity.*
    - a) Same with the Laodiceans. They needed to *fire up that inner flame & cultivate a burning heart*.

## V. Slide15a PROMISE (20-22)

- A. THE PROMISE OF FELLOWSHIP (20)
- B. This describes a request for *a renewal of fellowship*. In Song 5:2 the Shulamite talking about her groom, *I sleep, but my heart is awake; It is the voice of my beloved! He knocks, saying, Open for me, my sister, my love, My dove, my perfect*

*one; For my head is covered with dew, My locks with the drops of the night.* (I have a headache)

1. In their self-sufficiency, the church in Laodicea had **locked Christ out**. He wants them to **repent** and, ultimately, **take part in the coming messianic banquet**.

C. **Hear & Open & I'll Come & Eat/dine.**

1. Can be used in **both** applications for **believer & unbeliever**. **1st, to Lukewarm-ers.**
  - a) It's spoken to the **individual**, *if anyone ...* (put *your name* in the blank tonight)
  - b) He **knocks** through *circumstances*. He **calls** thru **His Word** for *Fellowship & Communion*.

D. **I will come in to him** - He enters the believers heart & makes it his home.

1. Some people let you in their house, others make it feel like it's your own home. (**grandma's house**) [note Jesus is writing to bel's here]
2. Have you **just** let Jesus **in**, **or has He been able to make it His home?**

E. **And eat with him** - Have some good spiritual food & fellowship.

F. **Slide15b The Greeks had 3 meals in the day:**

1. *ακριτισμα* (akritisma) - breakfast, bread dipped in wine.
2. *ἀριστάω* (aristao) - picnic snack on the go.
3. *δειπνέω* (deipneo) - (**used here**) the evening meal, where people lingered & sat long, & talked over it.

G. **And he with Me** - If **we** open **our heart's** to Him, **He'll** open **His home** to us.

1. **Enjoy the pleasure of His company.**

H. **What does this tell you about your Savior? About His amazing love for you?**

1. Jesus isn't eager to condemn, **or** to spit us out of His mouth.
2. **No**, His love compels **Him** to **care, confront, & call** us back to **Him**.

3. Call us back for punishment? **no**, for *clothing, healing, nourishment, companionship*. **For Love**.

I. No other religion has the vision of a *seeking God*.

1. It would be great enough to think of a God who **accepted** men when they **came back**; it was **beyond belief** to think of a God who actually went out & searched. *Barclay*

II. Even tonight, He will **not** kick the door down for fellowship, though He could. **He** gently *knocks & keeps knocking*.

1. He won't huff & puff & blow your door down.

2. Open up, choose to come out of seclusion.

3. It doesn't matter what you've done, **or** how far you've fallen, how long you've been lukewarm.

a) **Love** can go further than that.

III. **Prayer**: **Don't** leave Him on the porch like a salesman; invite Him into the dining room of your life. **Open all the doors of your life to Him**. Tell Him, *I want this, I need this*. I am **IN NEED of something** ... **YOU Jesus!**

IV. Keywords: Laodicea, lukewarm, opens.