

## ***Lessons From the Sermon of Jesus on the Mountain Part 66***

### ***The Letter of Jesus to the Church in Laodiceans Part 2***

***“14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; 15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. 16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. 17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: 18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. 19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. 20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. 21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. 22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.” (Revelation 3:14-22 KJV)***

The Laodicean church was a church who go along people, accept and tolerate even wrong believe, non correct doctrine, and wrong practices just to go along the people in order to please them and win their favor. Jesus said to them because of their tolerance even to the wrong just to please people, that He will spit them from His mouth: ***“16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.” (Revelation 3:16 KJV)*** Why Jesus would spit them from His mouth? ***“17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:” (Revelation 3:17 KJV)***

***“Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing;”*** In the city of Laodicea there were many riches, they had gold and many material resources and this plenty of materials gave them pride and indifference to the Lord. The church of the Laodiceans by their compromises might be even saying to the Lord the following: “We don’t need you but we need the people and their favor for us.” Or they might be tempted in this way to say, “Since the Lord had blessed us that means He blessed us because we are good.” They have a good opinion about themselves which is different from the bad opinion of the Lord about them. The Lord was telling them, ***“Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing;”*** they had pride and arrogance and they were not able to see themselves in the correct way. That is why the Lord sent them this letter so they will wake up to see themselves in the right way. And here the Lord is facing them of who really they were, ***“and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:”*** Here the Lord was not only rebuking that church but also was insulting them, telling them “You are saying that you are rich, having money, having treasures, having fluidity of material things and you have riches, but you are not aware and that you don’t know that you are:”

***1. Wretched:*** Jesus told them, “Your life is wretchedness, sadness, and there was no rest, joy and peace in your life.”

***2. Miserable:*** Jesus told them, “I am seeing you miserable with the spiritual deterioration that you are passing through.”

***3. Poor:*** Jesus told them, “that inspite of all the material things that you have in your life; you are poor in front of the Lord, you are poor spiritually.”

***4. and blind:*** Jesus told them that, “You are spiritually blind because you cannot see your real situation, and you cannot see your real deterioration.”

***5. and naked:*** This city was famous in the production of the best silk and in making clothes, but inspite of that Jesus told them that He is seeing them naked. He told them, “You were thinking that you are covered with good clothes, but the truth is that you are naked, you are naked spiritually, and exposed and scandalled with the spiritual deterioration of what you are passing through.” The Laodiceans were like an open book before the Lord.

\* Today the Lord is reading us in full as an open book before Him. He can see and read what is inside us and who we are. The Lord will not be deceived by our external appearances. He will not be deceived with the gold that we are wearing, with the good dress, or with the money that you may have. The Lord will not be deceived by the good dress that you are wearing, but He can see your unfaithfulness and how you are dishonest, a bad example, compromising in giving non correct Word of God to the people with you and the people around you just to keep the friendship with them. \* He can see how you are agreeing and keeping silent about the wrong, and how you are walking with the people, and how you are moving with the majority opinion even if it is wrong and you know that but you don’t want the people to get angry with you or to hate you or to leave you. \* You must know that compromises will further mislead the people who listen to you and that will harm them. That was the real problem of the church of the Laodiceans and that is why Jesus sent them a heavy rebuke, to restrain them and to wake them up so they will repent.

***“18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.” (Revelation 3:18 KJV)*** The Lord gave them counsel and advised them to follow His instructions. The Lord today giving you counsel, out of His mercy, and asked you to follow these advices and as the following:

***“Buy of me gold tried in the fire,”*** He was telling them and telling us today, the gold that you have is not correct, and it will not make you rich. To be rich Jesus said buy from him gold tried and refined with fire. Why that church was compromising with the people? Because they want to move away from persecution and from creating problems and troubles with the people around them that is why they were just compromising with the people. ***But we know very well that if we will not go through many hardships we cannot enter the Kingdom of God.*** Paul and Barnabas, told to the disciples, ***“Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.” (Acts 14:22 KJV)*** The church of the Laodiceans were moving away from the troubles and tribulation.

You need to give the Word of God precisely. John the Baptist, when faced Herod he told him that, “You don’t have the right to marry the wife of your brother.” ***“3 For Herod had laid hold on John, and bound him, and put him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife. 4 For John said unto him, It is not lawful for thee to have her.”***

(*Matthew 14:3-4 KJV*) John made Herod understand what he did is adultery and he needed to separate from her. Herod got angry and Herodia got angry with him. \* There are certain times that we need to tell the correct Word even if we fall into troubles because we are responsible to be the faithful and honest witnesses in giving the Word of God. You need to be faithful and honest witness with God and with Jesus. \* In certain times, there is no other way for you but to speak the truth with the people. You may create for you a crisis because of the Word of God, but you are forced to do that because the church is the candlestick that will carry the candle to bring light, by giving the Word of God precisely to all the people who are part of the church and who are around you and in the reach out of the church. In the book of *Revelation 1*, the seven churches were the seven candlesticks *“12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; 13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. 20 The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.”* (*Revelation 1:12-13, 20 KJV*) The candlesticks were made of gold to give the light, the precise Word of God, as similar to the tried gold by fire that Jesus suggested for the Laodicean church to buy from Him. Therefore we need to stand firm and not to compromise with the people.

I am not telling you here to go to the king or the judge of the city and tell him that you are doing adultery, but when you are called to speak and to tell the truth you need to declare the Word of God clearly to the concerned people. If you are in such situation as in the case of Herod's marriage with Herodia and your opinion is requested to be given, then you need to tell that this is adultery and they need to be separated.

You need to declare clearly: “This is injustice”, “this is adultery”, “this is extortion”, “this is cheating”, “this is taking advantage”, etc. You need to declare the Word of God clearly in the same way as Jesus announced it. Jesus Christ did not compromise with the Pharisees and the Jewish, even when they took Him and crucified Him, He did not compromise with them or flatter them. Certain times we need to stand firm, either be cold or hot but not as lukewarm. Lukewarmness in our lives will ignite nausea and ill feeling in the Lord's sight and He will spit us from his mouth. To spit us it means we lost our salvation. Therefore we need to repent and come back to the Lord.

The Lord when He said to them, *“Buy of me gold tried in the fire”*, we can read also about tried gold in the first letter of Peter, *“6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: 7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:”* (*1 Peter 1:6-7 KJV*) We are happy and rejoice with the Lord in our lives, but there are heaviness due to various trials and temptations, and these trials and temptations bring and increase in our lives the sadness. But this is has a benefit because it will be for a praise to you that your faith which is more precious than the gold that tried by fire, will prove you are genuine. The gold is proved by fire, but our faith is proved by the various trials and temptations. If we stand firm then we will have praise, honor and glory from the Lord Jesus Christ. But Christ's letter to the Laodicean was an insult to them. He was insulting them for their flatteries and compromises with the people whom they were dealing with. He was insulting them when He told them, *“thou art wretched, and*

*miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:”* And when He was telling them, *“I counsel thee”*, it means they did not have the right mind to think, He was insulting them. Therefore, the Lord wants us today to declare the Word of God precisely even if we are passing through the hard circumstances. We should not compromise but to give the Word according to the will of God, so we will be effective. When we live our lives accepting the trials and temptations, the message will come out from us more effective in the lives of the people around us. So here when the Lord advised those of the church of the Laodiceans to buy gold tried in fire to be rich indeed; it mean that they needed to accept life with trials, troubles and temptations.

Jesus also advised them to buy, *“white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear;”* The white raiment means the righteous acts of the saints. \* There are certain works that God wants you to do, works that He already prepared in advance for you to do. That when you do these works you will be really clothed and your nakedness will be covered and do not appear. \* The believers in Christ when they missed doing the works that God had prepared for them to do then they are like naked people and they are in shame. We are in shame if we will not evangelize and reach new people. We are naked and exposed to shame if we fail to make new disciples.

Jesus also advised them, *“and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.”* He told them that. “You are blind and you need the Holy Spirit so that you can be able to see clearly the realities of God that you are not able to see with your personal eyes.” When we receive and accept the Word of God and accept the will of God then we can receive the Holy Spirit, and that will be the time for us to see clearly the good plans of God for us as He ordained.

*“19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.”* (*Revelation 3:19 KJV*) Jesus told them here that. “The one that I love I rebuke and I discipline”. This message that He sent to them that was His rebuke and His insult to their bad deeds and that was His painful disciplinary action toward them to correct them in order to repent. That painful letter was the prove that He love them, and that was His love to them.

There is nothing good in that church, when the Word of God is compromised and altered in quality and published and declared with alteration in a wrong way to please people. When the Word of God is not declared in the right way it should be, because we don't want to hurt the feelings of some people, then the Lord in such a way will be angry with us and He will rebuke us and insult us and discipline us in order to bring us back to the right way and that is His love for us. Jesus said, *“As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.”* The Lord wants us today to return back to the right mind and the right way and that is the meaning of our repentance, to return back to the narrow gate and the narrow way in accepting sufferings, and accepting peoples, friends, relatives and neighbor to leave us.

*“20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.”* (*Revelation 3:20 KJV*) When Jesus said, *“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock:”* Then where was Jesus? Jesus here was not inside the church, but outside the church. Here the church was doing what they want and Jesus is standing outside the church. When we compromise, flatter, bargain, condone, then we are putting Jesus outside the church.

The most difficult moment in the life of the believers that Jesus is outside of their lives. Compromises take all the presence of God from your life. No blessings, no power, no ministry no miracle and no progress. The most difficult for any church that God would be outside the life of the church, outside the life of the families, outside the life of the ministers, and outside the life of the ministries.

Jesus was telling them, *“if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.”* Here the Lord was giving them another chance to open the door for Him, to allow Him again in their lives. The one who will open to Him, He will enter and sup with Him, in such a way, there will be fellowship, and there will be God’s presence in our lives. *What a beautiful thing that the Lord live with us, the Lord eat with us, the Lord walk with us, the Lord sleep with us, the Lord go with us and come back with us, the Lord work with us, the Lord fight for us, the Lord solve our problems, and He will be with us in every problem.* The fellowship with God will be joy peace, and satisfaction. The Lord also will protect us. If we accept the hard situations the Lord will protect us. If we accept to stand firm and not to compromise the Lord shall provide for us. The Lord will not leave us if we stand with Him. He said, *“I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.”* He will be there with us and will provide all our needs and He will neither leave us nor forsake us. I had a great experience with the Lord, that whenever I am challenged by the people to compromise with them so they will not trouble me, I chose to go through troubles and when I do that I see God’s presence in my life, His provision, His power, His miracle and His mighty move bringing victories into my life and in the life of His church.

*“21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.” (Revelation 3:21 KJV)* Here the Lord told them, *“To him that overcometh.”* The question is how we can overcome? The Lord taught us here, how to overcome, the same as He overcame. Jesus did not compromise with the Jewish. He did not tell to those who oppose Him, “I will change this Word so you will not feel bad about it.” He did not say, “I will change this subject so you will not be upset with me.” Not at all, Jesus did not do that, but He continued to give the right Word, even when the people got angry. The Lord continued even to the point that He was crucified, but He did not go back in doing the right thing. *The Lord will continue to be with us when we determine to do the right thing. The Lord will not allow us to go through circumstance more than our capabilities, but the Lord wants us to stand firm during the challenges so that we can overcome.* He said *“To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.”* The Lord here is inviting us to reach a better place. *See here the true love of God; even if the Lord outside the life of the church or outside your life, the Lord is still coming with love, knocking at the door, inviting Himself to enter your life and into the life of the church in order to bless you, to bless us and to bless our church. The Lord still has His love to you, to us and love to His church, and He promised that the one who overcome will sit with Him in His throne. The Lord is giving us another chance today to repent and come back to Him.*

**My dear and beloved:** Let us come back to the Lord, let us repent and let us repent of our sins. Tell the Lord today, “I understood my sin, that I compromised and wanted to live my life to be away from troubles, I was depending on my money, on my treasures,

on my material things, on my friends and on my relationships with the people. Lord forgives me because I said, *“I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing”*, Lord come again into my life. Lord forgives me because I put you outside my life, outside my family life, outside my ministry and outside the church. Lord come into my life and be the King over my life. Tell him, I will go where you are sending me and I will speak the Word that you tell me and I will do what you are asking me to do.”

*“22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.” (Revelation 3:22 KJV)* *The Lord, the Holy Spirit is speaking to us, He want us to come out from the lukewarmness and to be diligent in the work of God and to declare the Word of God in more effective way in the life of the people around us.*

**My prayer:** *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord I thank you for this Word and the rebuke that I received from you, and that you once again knocking the door of my life.*

*Come to the Lord and confess your sins and renounces all your compromises and flatteries, fear of man, lack of trust on God and dishonesty. Lord I repent of all my compromises and the fear of man, and being a bad example. Lord I open the door to you, come enter my life and be the Lord over my life. Lord I commit my life to live for you and to serve you. Lord I am wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked:” Lord, comfort me, provide me my needs, open my eyes to see, cover my nakedness, and restore me once again back to you and to your ministry. Lord speak to me and give me the advises that I need to go on into the right direction in my life in order to serve you and live according to your will. Lord I am ready and willing to do the good works that you prepared for me to do. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*

*Lord thank you for my brethren and sisters who repented and amended their ways; who are willing to be corrected and walk in your ways. Lord help them to accomplish what they promised you, and to do what is right according to your will and to your Word.*

*Lord we pray for us as a church, that we open the door to you, to come and lead us and have full control over our lives. Lord as we are willing to stand for you, we trust you that you will protect us and provide all our needs, and will open new doors for us to serve you, to evangelize, to raise up new disciples and children in the fear of you, and to train new workers to serve you with us. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us, and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus’ name, Amen.*

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