



DISCIPLE-AT-HOME

REVIVAL | PART FIVE | Drinking From The Garden Hose.

I encourage you to read the entirety of this letter to Laodicea (Revelation 3:14-22). This letter deals with problems that, in my opinion, seem the most relatable to modern Christians. The dangers of the wealth and ease Jesus addresses sound like he could be talking right to us.

- *Of these 7 letters we've studied which ones hit home most with you and why?*
 - *What surprised you about the encouragement or critique that Jesus gave these churches?*
 - *What is a specific action item you've taken away from these letters?*
1. Jesus said this church was "lukewarm" and that their deeds made him want to "spit them out" (vs 16). It's an intentionally disturbing description of the nature of their discipleship. **In what tangible ways do you see elements of "lukewarmness" in modern Christianity? In yourself?**
 2. I doubt anyone would actually articulate the words in vs 17a ("*I am rich; I have acquired wealth and I have need of nothing*") but, when you can order literally anything in two days with your phone, it's hard to deny that we *live* that way. Jesus had a lot to say about the dangers of wealth*. **What are the ways you've seen the consumer mentality and materialism interfere with discipleship? What about your discipleship?**
 3. Jesus said they did "*not realize that*" they were "*wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.*" (vs. 17b) **How do you think greed or wealth blind us to spiritual realities?**
 4. The entire chapter of Deuteronomy 8 is God pleading with His people not to let the gifts distract them from the Giver. (In particular note **8:10-12**). There's a direct correlation between forgetting that *everything* we have is from God and sliding into the sin of entitlement. **What material blessings in your life do you forget to be grateful for?**

(Note: I realize the answer could easily be "all of them" but try to think specifically about things in your life that you take for granted. Or, even better, the things you have but you become envious because someone else has one that is bigger, newer or shinier.)
 5. There are moments in our lives where God blesses us with difficulty. God, in His mercy, removes our illusion of self-sufficiency. **Can you think of a time in your life where God, in His grace, gave you a painful reminder of your dependence on Him?**

Jesus had a LOT to say about our relationship with material wealth. If you're looking to dig a little deeper on the topic, consider the following passages out of the Gospel of Matthew. **Matthew 5:42; Matthew 6:24; Matthew 6:19-21; Matthew 13:18, 22*