

“Naked as a Jaybird!”

1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. Tonight’s approach:
 - 1.1.1. Approach His Word with our **analytical knife sharpened** to dissect it into tiny pieces for scrutinizing & labeling?
 - 1.1.1.1. Often we can name all the right parts & miss the personal message.
 - 1.1.2. I’ve sought to **filet a fish** before, & ended up **filleting my own finger**.
 - 1.1.3. Listen for God. Let the sword of His Word cut you, quit trying to cut it!
- 1.2. In his book, *The Yoke of Christ*, **Elton Trueblood** quotes a letter from a school girl who probes the depth of her soul. She writes, "I've been thinking much this year about the importance of caring, of the passion of life. I've often realized that it takes courage to care. Caring is dangerous. It leaves you **open to hurt** and to **looking like a fool**. And perhaps it's because they have been hurt so often that people are afraid to care. You can't die if you're not alive. And then who would rather be a stone? I have found many places in my own life **where I keep a secret store of indifference** as a sort of **self-protection**."
 - 1.2.1. That's a penetrating insight -- *a secret store of indifference*.
 - 1.2.2. We're to care, because Christ cared -- even though it means a cross.
- 1.3. C.S. Lewis is the highly provocative *The Screwtape Letters* said in Wormwoods job description: "I, the devil, will always see to it that there are bad people. Your job, my dear Wormwood, is to provide me with the people who **do not care**."

2. **NAKED! (14-22)**

- 2.1. **Don't read text up front!**
- 2.2. **Background:**
- 2.3. **What is Murrieta known for? Temecula?**
 - 2.3.1. Now, imagine if you knew what a 1st century writer knew about this city of Laodicea.
- 2.4. **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!*"
 - 2.4.1. Tacitus 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)¹
 - 2.4.2. It was one of the wealthiest cities *in the world!*
- 2.5. **Medical Center** - It was a **medical center** known for an ointment for treating **ears**, & a powder for the **eyes**.

¹*The Revelation of John : Volume 1*. 2000, c1976 (W. Barclay, lecturer in the University of Glasgow, Ed.). The Daily study Bible series, Rev. ed. (138). Philadelphia: The Westminster Press.

- 2.6. **Location** - Laodicea was **located near Hierapolis** (where there was famous Hot-springs) & near **Colossae** (known for its pure Cold water).
- 2.6.1. Trade route - hfghfgh
- 2.7. **Banking & financial center** - It was also known as a **banking & financial center**.
- 2.8. **Sheep** - And for their glossy black wool cloth!
- 2.8.1. **Jesus will use each of these images for His points to the church!** (18)
- 2.9. **JESUS!** (14)
- 2.10. **Faithful** - He won't *Dilute* the Truth!
- 2.11. **True** - He won't *Distort* the Truth!
- 2.12. **Beginning of the creation of God** - Indicating His **priority** over all creation!
- 2.12.1. *Beginning* = origin; to have 1st place; to hold the chief place!
- 2.13. Though outwardly the church appeared strong & prosperous, the lord finds **nothing** to **COMMEND!**
- 2.13.1. Though they were busy commending themselves!
- 2.14. **HE CONDEMNS 4 THINGS:** (15-17)
- 2.15. **[1] INDIFFERENCE!** (15,16) - Lukewarm, not Hot nor Cold.
- 2.15.1. In the Christian life there are **3 temperatures:**
- 2.15.2. **[1] A Burning Heart** [zestos/boiling hot] (*on fire for God*)
- 2.15.2.1. Lk.24:32 "And they said to one another, "Did not our **heart burn** within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"
- 2.15.3. **[2] A Cold Heart** - Mt.24:12 "And because lawlessness will abound, **the love of many will grow cold.**"
- 2.15.4. **[3] A Lukewarm Heart** - Comfortable & complacent!
- 2.15.4.1. If they were **cold** they would have at least felt it!
- 2.15.4.2. Jesus says, "*Give me all your Hate or all your Heart, but don't offer Lukewarm Love!*"
- 2.15.4.3. 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!
- 2.15.4.4. Imagine a **Salesman** lukewarm about sales! An **Electrician** lukewarm about electricity! A **Fighter** lukewarm against his foe! Imagine a **Doctor** lukewarm about disease! - Imagine a **Church** lukewarm about Christ? *It makes as much sense!*
- 2.15.4.5. Puke, vomit, barf, hurl... ☹️
- 2.15.5. **Q:** Are you "on fire" for Jesus?
- 2.16. **[2] PRIDE!** (17a) - Obviously a boasting church, basking in their own effort, "**I'm rich, wealthy & independent!**"
- 2.16.1. They said, "We're in need of nothing"; Jesus said, "**W/o me you can do nothing!**"

- 2.17. [3] **SELF DECEPTION!** (17b) - “They did not know !”
- 2.17.1. This church didn’t even know how bad off they were!
 - 2.17.2. **Smyrna** thought itself poor, but they were rich! (Here Laodicea was opp.)
 - 2.17.3. They said, we’re Wonderful; He said your Wretched!
They said, we’re Marvelous; He said your Miserable!
They said, we’re Prospering; He said your Poor!
They said, we’re Beholding; He said your Blind!
They said, we’re clothed from Nordstrom’s; He said you’re Naked as a Jaybird!
- 2.18. [4] **SPIRITUAL POVERTY!** (17b) - wretched, miserable, poor, blind, & naked.
- 2.18.1. 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 one boy shouted **the king has no clothes!**
 - 2.18.1.1. Jesus was like the lil boy who yelled, “*Laodicea has no clothes*”. They’re “*naked as a jaybird*” spiritually!
 - 2.18.2. **Naked** speaks of **shame**, humiliation:
 - 2.18.2.1.2 Sam. 10:4 “Therefore Hanun 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.”
- 2.19. “I counsel you” (18,19) - He is our Wonderful, Counselor!
- 2.20. We **not only** need to be honest with **ourselves**, **but allow God** to be honest with us!
- 2.20.1. Ps.16:7 “I will bless the LORD who has given me counsel.”
- 2.21. They were exhorted to grab God’s: **Gold, Garments, & Goop!**
- 2.21.1. **Gold** - They had **fools gold!** They needed gold refined by fire!
 - 2.21.2. **Garments** - Unfeigned Purity(White garments)
 - 2.21.2.1. The Laodicean’s could easily go to market & buy their beautiful **black** wool garments, **but** they needed God’s **white** garments of rt.!
 - 2.21.3. **Goop** - They were famous for their “*Phrygian powder*” mixed w/oil for an eye salve!
 - 2.21.3.1. They need some eye salve so they could see their true sp. condition!
 - 2.21.3.2. **Is your spiritual vision 20/20?** - See 2 Pet.1:5-9
 - 2.21.4. Jesus will make them spiritually rich, cover their nakedness, & heal their blindness!

- 2.22. **As many as I love, I rebuke & chasten** (19)
- 2.23. **After all this...He loved these lukewarm saints!**
 2.23.1. **Enough to chasten them, not throw them away!**
 2.23.2. He would chasten them as **proof** of His love!
- 2.24. **Repent** - From their Pride & humble themselves before the Lord.
 2.24.1. They needed to fire up that inner flame & cultivate a burning heart!
- 2.25. **PROMISES!** (20-22)
- 2.26. **1ST PROMISE – FELLOWSHIP!** (20)
- 2.27. **Hear & Open...I'll Come & Dine!**
 2.27.1. Can be used in **both** applications for Bel. & unbel.
 2.27.1.1. **1st to Luke-warmers!**
- 2.28. It's spoken to the individual, "**if anyone...!**" (put your name in the blank tonight!)
- 2.29. He **knocks** through circumstances, He **calls** thru His Word for Fellowship & Communion!
- 2.30. **"I will come in to him"** - He enters the bel.'s heart & makes it his home!
 2.30.1. **Some people let you in their house, others make it feel like it's your own home!** (grandma's house)
 2.30.2. **Have you just let Jesus in, or has He been able to make it His home?**
- 2.31. **"I will Dine with him"** - Have some good spiritual food & fellowship!
 2.31.1. **The Greeks had 3 meals in the day:**
 2.31.2. **ακριτισμα** - Breakfast, bread dipped in wine.
 2.31.3. **ϋριστάω** [*aristao* /ar-is-tah-o/] Picnic snack on the go.
 2.31.4. **δειπνέω** [*deipneo* /dipe-neh-o/] (used here) - Evening meal, people lingered & sat long & talked over it!
- 2.32. **"And he with Me!"** - If we open our **heart's** to Him, He'll open His **home** to us!
 2.32.1. **Enjoy the pleasure of His company!**
- 2.33. **Q: What does this tell you about your Savior? About His amazing love for you?**
 2.33.1. Jesus **isn't** eager to condemn, to spit us out of His mouth.
 2.33.2. **No, His love compels Him to care, confront, & call us back to Him.**
 2.33.3. **Call us back for punishment?** - No, for clothing, healing, nourishment, companionship. **For Love!**
 2.33.4. **No other religion has the vision of a seeking God.**
 2.33.5. **Montefiore, the great Jewish scholar, said that one thing which no Jewish prophet & no Jewish Rabbi ever conceived of is the "conception of God actually going out in quest of sinful men, who were not seeking Him, but who were turned away from Him."**
 2.33.5.1. **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)

- 2.33.6. Even tonight He will not kick the door down for fellowship, though He could. He gently knocks & keeps knocking(lit.).
- 2.33.6.1. He won't huff & puff & blow your door down!
- 2.33.6.2. Open up, choose to come out of seclusion!
- 2.33.6.3. **It doesn't matter what you've done, or how far you've fallen!**
- 2.33.6.3.1. Love can go no further than that!!!
- 2.34. **2ND PROMISE – INHERITANCE!** (21)
- 2.34.1. A promise of true exaltation w/Christ in His Millennium rule!
- 2.34.2. Wow, the privilege of sitting w/Him on His throne!
- 2.34.3. Letting Him in lets love in, with all its risks.
- 2.34.3.1. **But note the end of His love is NOT the shaky security of this world, but a place next to Jesus in the next!**
- 2.35. **As I also overcame** – Christ overcame by the power of the cross, & set this pattern for His followers. (Leon Morris)
- 2.36. **7th time** “he who has an ear...hear what the Spirit says” –
- 2.36.1. When **churches stop listening** to the voice of the Spirit, through the Word, is when they're in trouble.
- 2.37. **END:** Laodicea had a Framework of church, but not Fruit!
- 2.37.1. Does your fruit hang like **ornaments** that we **tie on** our X-mas trees? Or, like a pinecone attached to the limb, **relying on its source** for its very life?