

THE BIG IDEA CURRICULUM

Too far from the Source

Sermon 07.11.09
Clark Riggins

Small Group Study for Week of Nov 7th – 13th

The Big Idea

This week we looked at the letter in Revelation to the church of Laodicea. We explored the text in terms of local geographical and cultural context, then used this as part of our method to understand the phrase “I wish you were hot or cold, but because you are lukewarm I will spit you out of my mouth,” (Rev 3:15, Clark paraphrase). It was mentioned that the main point Jesus was trying to make was that like the water that gets to Laodicea becomes lukewarm from icy or hot because of its distance from the source of the supply. So the Laodicean had become lukewarm and pointless as a Christian faith community. But Jesus gave a solution to this problem. He revealed that He was knocking upon the heart of the people and if they were willing, He would come and dwell with them thereby the Source would be a part the believer’s life and not some distant experience.

In our small group time, we will look at John 9 and see how this seems to point to the same issues that faced the Laodicean church.

Group Reads John 9 (the whole chapter/story) in one sitting

Questions:

1. What is the main focus of Jesus’ teaching that is being laid out in Verses 1-7
 - a. Who are the main characters?
 - b. Who is doing what?
 - c. Who is saying what?
 - d. Which one of the main characters is silent? (why would that be?)
2. What is John revealing concerning this miracle? (Verse 8-34)
 - a. Who is saying what?
 - b. Who is doing what?
 - c. What is the main point of contention?
 - d. What do some of the describing words tell us about the experience of the characters
3. What are the words Jesus is specifically using in verses 35-41 that tell us the whole point of the story?
 - a. Can this be seen as similar to the Laodicean experience of Rev 3?
 - b. What about the religious leaders - what are the main describing words used by Jesus in relation to them?
 - c. What do the similarities between the Jewish leaders and the Laodicean church tell us about the possibilities in our own experience?

Experience questions

1. What is God telling us about ourselves in this story?

2. What am I going to do with what God is telling me through these experiences (Laodicean church and the Jewish leadership)?
3. What do I have to give to God to let Him be the centre of my life and therefore allowing the Source to be in my life instead of far away?