

The church in Laodicea was labeled as “lukewarm,” - they suffered from apathy and the belief that everything was fine as it was, hence Jesus’ stern warning to “be earnest and repent.” If we’re honest, we have similar moments where Jesus might be shouting, “Here I am! I stand at the door and knock” but our hearts and mind are apathetic, wrapped up in other duties, obligations and cares. Consider this devotional as an opportunity to be woken from your apathy and meet Jesus at the door where He has already been knocking.

New to daily devotionals? Here are a few tips for this week:

- It’s easy to believe that the opposite of apathy is zeal—we can pressure ourselves into thinking that in order to not be apathetic, we must be on fire for God, as if everything is fine all of a sudden. However, the antonym for apathy is actually concern or regard. Be gentle with yourself as you give regard to Jesus and be concerned with where He is inviting you.
- One part of pursuing Jesus in our apathy is acknowledging that it is only in Christ that we have life. When we create a posture of gratitude for what has been given to us, it shapes the way we think about and pursue Jesus. Try spending your time thinking about how He has provided for you and let that dictate your decisions and mindsets.

Monday, November 26th

Read 1 Corinthians 3:18-23

¹⁸ Do not deceive yourselves. If any of you think you are wise by the standards of this age, you should become “fools” so that you may become wise. ¹⁹ For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God’s sight. As it is written: “He catches the wise in their craftiness”; ²⁰ and again, “The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile.” ²¹ So then, no more boasting about human leaders! All things are yours, ²² whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, ²³ and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God.

How have you seen the world’s wisdom fail others in life? What parts of the world’s wisdom do you find tempting or alluring? What entices you to follow the world’s wisdom instead of God’s wisdom?

Why do you think God’s wisdom looks like foolishness to the world? How has that impacted your relationship with world? In your relationship with God? How has following the world’s wisdom left you feeling lukewarm towards God?

When have you found yourself boasting about yourself or others (v. 21) instead of acknowledging what is already yours—life in Christ? What would it look like to look at humans through the lens of gratitude—that we are privileged to be in union with Christ?

Tuesday, November 27th

Read Hebrews 10:22-25

²² Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

What might it look like for you to draw near to God with a sincere heart and full assurance? What walls might you need to take down? What areas of your life might you need to let God into?

How do God’s promises offer you hope day to day? What does it look like for God’s promises to keep you motivated and striving forward towards deeper union with Christ?

Who in your life might God be leading you to spur on? Are there people that you might need to ask to be helpful in spurring you on? What things might you need to start or continue doing in order to be encouraged in community?

Wednesday, November 28th

Read Deuteronomy 6:10-12

¹⁰ When the LORD your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you—a land with large, flourishing cities you did not build, ¹¹ houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant—then when you eat and are satisfied, ¹² be careful that you do not forget the LORD, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

What has God provided for you in your life? Physical things? Relationships? Spiritual realities? Do you consider them to be things you have earned or things you have been given?

When do you find earthly things enough to satisfy you? How have you found this dangerous?

When in your life have you forgotten the Lord and what He has done for you? What did that look like? What might it look like to remember what the Lord has done for you, similar to the Israelites?

Thursday, November 29th

Read Luke 18:9-14

⁹ To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: ¹⁰ “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

¹³ “But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’

¹⁴ “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

What gives you confidence in your righteousness (right standing with God)?
When is your confidence determined by your own actions instead of God’s mercy?

When have you found yourself caught in all of the things you do for God instead of your relationship with God? What does it look like for you to humble yourself?

Who do you relate with in this passage—the Pharisee or the tax collector? Why? What might God’s invitation be for you?

Friday, November 30th

Read Philippians 2:12-13

¹² Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

What does it mean to work out your salvation? Why might the author of Philippians guide us to live out our salvation with fear and trembling? Does fear or trembling have a place in your relationship with Jesus? Why or why not?

*May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you:
wherever he may send you;
may He guide you through the wilderness:
protect you through the storm;
may he bring you home rejoicing:
at the wonders He has shown You;
may He bring you home rejoicing:
once again into our doors.*



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