



## Matthew 15:1-14 NLT

**15** Some Pharisees and other Jewish leaders now arrived from Jerusalem to interview Jesus.

<sup>2</sup> “Why do your disciples disobey the ancient Jewish traditions?” they demanded. “For they ignore our ritual of ceremonial handwashing before they eat.” <sup>3</sup> He replied, “And why do your traditions violate the direct commandments of God? <sup>4</sup> For instance, God’s law is ‘Honor your father and mother; anyone who reviles his parents must die.’ <sup>5-6</sup> But you say, ‘Even if your parents are in need, you may give their support money to the church<sup>[a]</sup> instead.’ And so, by your man-made rule, you nullify the direct command of God to honor and care for your parents. <sup>7</sup> You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, <sup>8</sup>

‘These people say they honor me, but their hearts are far away. <sup>9</sup> Their worship is worthless, for they teach their man-made laws instead of those from God.’” [Isaiah

<sup>10</sup> Then Jesus called to the crowds and said, “Listen to what I say and try to understand: <sup>11</sup> You aren’t made unholy by eating non-kosher food! It is what you say and think that makes you unclean.”

<sup>12</sup> Then the disciples came and told him, “You offended the Pharisees by that remark.”

<sup>13-14</sup> Jesus replied, “Every plant not planted by my Father shall be rooted up, so ignore them. They are blind guides leading the blind, and both will fall into a ditch.”

“If serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve... But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.” Joshua 24:15

Spiritually speaking not perfect, acknowledge their need for God’s grace and fully devoted to Jesus, people on their knees in prayer asking for God to show up, opening their Bible Word expecting God to speak.



# SERMON NOTES

## THE THREE CHAIRS

*Where you sit determines where you stand.*

### Chair One – Commitment – Relationship – Godly

*“One thing Christianity can never be is moderately important.” CS Lewis*

There’s a huge difference between interest and commitment. When you’re interested in something you will do it only when it is convenient. When you’re committed to something, there are no excuses, only action

#### Daily renewal of prayer and reflection

#### Where can I go to meet with God?

### Chair Two – Compromise – Routine - Good

**STOCKHOLM SYNDROME** is a psychological effect in which people take on the biases and attitudes of those around them. It happens when a victim adopts the same values as the aggressor, and they cease to be perceived as a threat.

*The safest road to hell is the gradual one - the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts. C. S. Lewis*

*They followed and worshiped various gods of the peoples around them. Ju 2:12*

#### SLIDING SCALE of spiritual connection.

### Chair Three – Complacency – Rebellion – Successful

*I am content and satisfied, I can survive this life on my own*

For this people's heart has become **calloused**; they hardly hear with their ears (**deaf**), and they have closed their eyes (**blind**). Matthew 13:15

Blessed is the one  
who does not walk in step with the wicked  
or stand in the way that sinners take  
or sit in the company of mockers,  
<sup>2</sup>but whose delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and who meditates on his law day and night.  
<sup>3</sup>That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,  
which yields its fruit in season  
and whose leaf does not wither—  
whatever they do prospers. Psalm 1

As the deer pants for streams of water,  
so my soul pants for you, my God.  
<sup>2</sup>My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.  
When can I go and meet with God? Psalm 42

In fact, there is a **Stockholm syndrome** effect for most people in organizations, in which they take on the biases and attitudes of those around them.

When a victim adopts the same values as the aggressor, and they cease to be perceived as a threat

a psychological phenomenon in which hostages express empathy and sympathy and have positive feelings toward their captors, sometimes to the point of defending and identifying with the captors. These feelings are generally considered irrational in light of the danger or risk endured by the victims, who essentially mistake a lack of abuse from their captors for an act of kindness.

<sup>6</sup>After Joshua had dismissed the Israelites, they went to take possession of the land, each to their own inheritance. <sup>7</sup>The people served the LORD throughout the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who outlived him and who had seen all the great things the LORD had done for Israel.

<sup>10</sup>After that whole generation had been gathered to their ancestors, another generation grew up who knew neither the LORD nor what he had done for Israel. <sup>11</sup>Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD and served the Baals. <sup>12</sup>They forsook the LORD, the God of their ancestors, who had brought them out of Egypt. They followed and worshiped various gods of the peoples around them. Judges 2:6-12

"If you read History you will find that the Christians who did the most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become, ineffective in this." (C.S. Lewis)

**But what happens when we live God's way?** He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard—things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity. We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people. We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely. Galatians 5:22-23 (Msg)

Faith is what drives you into the future.

Tossed about by every wave

# SACRED JOURNEY

## 10 SIGNS YOU ARE A CHAIR TWO CHRISTIANS

*Crazy Love* by Francis Chan. In chapter 4 there is a list of the 10 signs you might be lukewarm (half hearted about being Christian).

1. Lukewarm people attend church regularly, because that's what good Christians do.
2. Lukewarm people give money to charity and church...as long as it is safe and easy to do so.
3. Lukewarm people tend to choose what is popular over what is right in a conflict.
4. Lukewarm people don't really want to be saved from their sin; they want only to be saved from the penalty of their sin.
5. Lukewarm people are moved by stories about people who do radical things for Christ, yet they do not act.
6. Lukewarm people rarely share their faith with their neighbors, coworkers or friends.
7. Lukewarm people gauge their morality or "goodness" by comparing themselves to the secular world.
8. Lukewarm people say they love Jesus, and He is, indeed, a part of their lives. But only a part.
9. Lukewarm people love God, but they do not love Him with all their heart, soul and strength.
10. Lukewarm people love others, but do not seek to love others as much as they love themselves.

Chan writes, "We are *all* messed-up human beings, and no one is totally immune to the behaviors described in the previous examples. However, there is a difference between a life that is characterized by these sorts of mentalities and habits and a life that is in the process of being radically transformed...Jesus didn't say that if you wanted to follow Him

you could do it in a lukewarm manner. He said, 'Take up your cross and follow me.'" (Chan, page 80). What is on your list of what it means to be lukewarm?