



Pastor Jason King // September 27, 2020

Text for this week: Revelation 2:18-29 (NIV)
How to Guard Yourself in the Pursuit of Holiness

Break the Ice: Ask the group, “What is your Favorite Starbucks order?”

This week’s lesson is based on the letter written to those who belong to God in Thyatira. Pastor Jason took time to explain that this church was in a small town and the people were tradesman. In order to be part of the local guild or “union,” you had to participate in sexual immorality and other practices that are not God honoring. A woman who Jesus called ‘Jezebel,’ a self-proclaimed prophet, was teaching that it was ok for the people to engage in the rituals because as Pastor Jason stated, she’d justify it with, “you have to make a living, right?” Jesus gave principles in this letter that are as applicable today as they were when they were written to Thyatira.

1. Jesus sees everything:

READ:

Revelation 2:18 and 1 Peter 2:9

Jesus is described in Revelation 2:18 as the SON OF GOD whose eyes are like blazing fire. He is not a weak Jesus. He can see the deepest darkest secrets. However, Jesus is not calling out sin so that He can make them feel bad. He is telling them to repent so that they can live the life He created for them to live.

DISCUSS:

Knowing that you are CHOSEN by a strong and righteous God, how do you respond?

READ:

Proverbs 9:10

Scripture encourages us to fear the Lord, as it is the beginning of wisdom. Pastor Jason helped us define the word fear as “Respect” or “honor”. Jesus doesn’t want us to be afraid to approach Him. HE wants us to respect Him and His ability to know all. He wants us to trust that He has the BEST for us.

DISCUSS:

Do you feel scared of God? What tradition(s) or experience(s) does that come from?

Describe what you feel when you hear that “fear” means honor and respect instead of cowering or hiding.

2. Tolerance and bad doctrine:

READ:

Revelation 2:20

There was a false prophet, the woman Jesus called ‘Jezebel,’ in the church at Thyatira. This teacher was encouraging the people to engage in the customs of the guilds and to do what the culture around them was doing. It was taught that God would understand the participation in evil and sexual immorality, and they made it sound like it “made sense” to reason with this teaching.

The church at Thyatira had three types of People:

- a. People who were doing the right things.
- b. People who were tolerant of what 'Jezebel' was teaching. They were not engaging in those rituals and behaviors, but they also were not speaking out against them.
- c. People who were engaged in and practicing the wickedness that 'Jezebel' taught. Their attitude seemed to be, "God will understand that I have to do this."

DISCUSS:

Do you see any correlation from this letter to our current church culture? If so, give some examples. If not, why do you think our culture is different from Thyatira?

READ:

This church looked much like the world around it. Indeed, it was hard to tell if a person was a member of the church or not.

DISCUSS:

Do you know anyone that is distinctly different from the world? How do you perceive that person? Do they seem weird? Do you feel comfortable around them?

3. Jesus gives the church and 'Jezebel' opportunity to repent:

READ:

Revelation 2:21-23

Scripture indicates that Jesus gave the false teacher time to repent. Their choice was not to repent. Jesus made it clear that she will suffer and all those who commit adultery will suffer intensely unless they repent.

Psalm 139:23a, 24

In contrast, King David asked God to show him what he needed to repent for. He was seeking to be above reproach and asked God to search him.

PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Is this the cry of your heart? Or do you tend to be resistant to the conviction of the Holy Spirit?

READ:

Many times, we are scared to ask God to show us what we need to repent about, perhaps because we fear that we will feel guilty or that we are not worthy of full forgiveness.

PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Conviction is direct and specific and brings relief and freedom.

Condemnation is vague and condemning and continues to accuse you long after you have repented.

Have you heard this before? How does your view or experience of God change now that you know the distinction between conviction and condemnation?

4. Take away:

To the ones that were doing the right thing: Jesus tells them to hold on. Keep doing what is right! Don't give up, even when it is hard and you are mocked. If something is leading you away from the Lordship of Jesus in your life, reject it.

If something seems true or has truth IN it, but isn't rooted in the Word and consistent with the whole Bible, that is a sign that it is not right, reject it. The enemy wants you to tolerate sin. The enemy doesn't want you to live out your full mission, as dreamed up by God. We are on this earth to know God, don't let anyone lead you astray.

- As we go through our week, let's ask God to bring conviction to where we have compromised or tolerated compromise.

- Let's commit together to repent quickly and often, looking to Jesus as the one who forgives and calls us blameless when we remain in Him.