

JESUS CALLED

HE WANTS HIS
CHURCH BACK

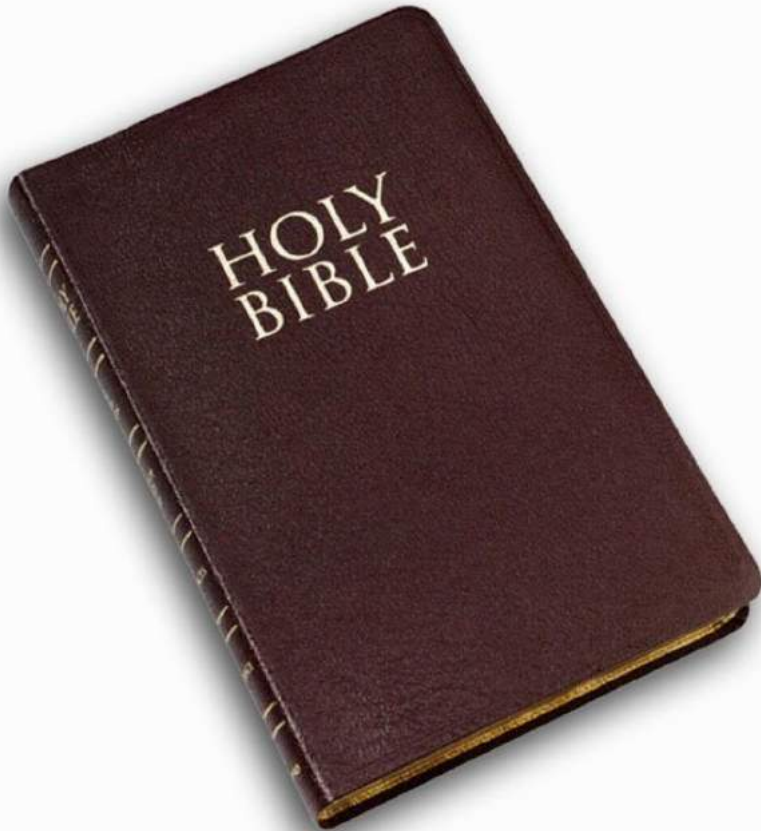


**JESUS CALLED – HE WANTS HIS CHURCH BACK, WEEK #4:
Lukewarm and Loving It**



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Matthew 22

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GRACE
and
TRUTH

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"Jesus is very popular. Most everyone thinks He's one of the great moral teachers of all time. It's okay to criticize Marx or Adam Smith, Roosevelt or Barry Goldwater. But hardly anyone ever criticizes Jesus. Or obeys Him. In fact, we go to great lengths claiming He didn't teach what He clearly did. We have to, of course. To admit He did would require us either to change (repent) or to criticize Him. And neither of those is acceptable. The problem is that Jesus was an extremist, and we are moderates. His evaluation of our way of life was that it is upside down. According to Jesus, we don't need a face-lift; what we need is to be torn down and completely rebuilt. Born again, He called it. He wanted us turned right side up."

(DONALD B. KRAYBILL, THE UPSIDE DOWN KINGDOM)

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1. Untested Faith

- MATTHEW 10:38 – Jesus: “Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me.”
- 1 HALLUCINATIONS 1:17 – “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God. Believe also in middle-class utopia.”
- ANTIDOTE – Let Jesus confront your COMFORT
- How? BY ASKING YOU TO DIE (to self)

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**“I didn’t go to religion to make me happy. I always knew a bottle of Port would do that. If you want a religion to make you feel really comfortable, I certainly don’t recommend Christianity.”
(C.S. LEWIS)**

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**WHAT IS MORALISTIC
THERAPEUTIC DEISM?**

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2. Uncommitted Hearts

- MATTHEW 15:8 – Jesus: “These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.”
- 1 HALLUCINATIONS 6:5 – “Love the Lord your God with booming worship songs and minimal devotion.”
- ANTIDOTE – Let Jesus confront your HONESTY
- How? BY ASKING YOU TO BE CONSISTENT

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3. Unrepentant Lifestyles

- JOHN 14:23 – Jesus: “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.”
- 1 HALLUCINATIONS 13:16 – “If you love me, debate my commands.”
- ANTIDOTE – Let Jesus confront your CONTROL
- How? BY FREEING US THROUGH OBEDIENCE!

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4. Unused Capacity

- LUKE 12:48 – Jesus: “From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.”
- 1 HALLUCINATIONS 12:21 – “The eye cannot say to the hand ‘I do not need you,’ unless of course you’re busy. Your church has plenty of hands. You can just sit and spectate.”
- ANTIDOTE – Let Jesus confront your **SMALL THINKING**
- How? **BY GIVING US A GREATER VISION**

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5. Undeveloped Character

- MATTHEW 5:29 – Jesus: “If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.”
- 1 HALLUCINATIONS 5:29 – “If your right eye causes you to stumble, try to downplay it. It is far better to have two eyes than to be uncomfortable.”
- ANTIDOTE – Let Jesus confront your VIEW OF YOURSELF
- How? BY CONTINUING TO WORK IN OUR HEARTS

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6. Unread Bibles

- MATTHEW 4:4 – Jesus: “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”
- 1 HALLUCINATIONS 3:4 – “Never change, for He accepts you just the way you are. Therefore just stay like you are.”
- ANTIDOTE – Let Jesus confront your VIEW OF SCRIPTURE
- How? By CREATING SPACE FOR DEVOTION

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7. Unresolved Conflicts

- MATTHEW 5:23-24 – Jesus: “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.”
- 1 HALLUCINATIONS 6:5 – “As much as you can, live at peace with all people, and when you are unable, live at a distance.”
- ANTIDOTE – Let Jesus confront your RELATIONSHIPS
- How? By INITIATING A PATHWAY TO RECONCILIATION

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“If we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.” (C.S. LEWIS)

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ROMANCE  **ROUTINE**

DELIGHT  **DISILLUSIONMENT**

ENJOYING GOD  **ENDURING LIFE**

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