

### I. INTRODUCTION

#### A. Schedule for this Season

1. Large Group: John 13-17 – Lifeboat leaders to team teach
2. Adult Sabbath Class:
3. Lifeboat Groups: Testimonies
4. Children’s Curriculum: the Gospel Project

### II. RESCUED FROM LUKEWARMNESS (from Mike Bickle’s notes)

#### A. Deep Fellowship Promised:

Jesus promised the church of Laodicea deep fellowship with Him. He required that they repent of being lukewarm and promised to give them spiritual gold and food in dining with them (Rev. 3:20).

<sup>16</sup>“...you are lukewarm...<sup>18</sup>I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire...<sup>19</sup>...be zealous and repent. <sup>20</sup>I stand at the door and knock. If anyone...opens the door, I will...dine with him... (Rev. 3:16-20)

#### B. Buying Gold from Yeshua:

We repent to “buy spiritual gold,” that is, to engage in the God-ordained process of acquiring a deep relationship with God as highlighted in John 13-17. In “buying” gold, we do not “earn” it, but we invest ourselves in a costly way to position ourselves to receive “gold.” Isaiah called us “to buy spiritual food” by listening and talking (coming to Him in conversation).

#### C. Invest:

Invest yourself in a costly way; listening and talking - get gold; listen to Him and talk to Him about it <sup>1</sup>“Everyone who thirsts...come, buy wine and milk without money <sup>2</sup>...Listen carefully to Me... let your soul delight in abundance. <sup>3</sup>Incline your ear, and come to Me...” (Isa. 55:1-3)

#### D. Dine with Him:

To eat here speaks of deep fellowship with the Spirit who teaches and tenderizes us. The teaching in John 14-16 followed the physical meal the disciples shared with Jesus in John 13. Thus, we eat spiritual food—the truths, promises, and commands that He highlighted in John 14-17.

1. Not confusing but hard to do
2. If we open the door of our heart, He opens the door of His glory (Rev 4:1)

### III. THE CONTEXT

#### A. Great Difficulty:

Given in the context of great challenge and difficulty for the disciples

#### B. Our Coming Difficulty:

John 13-17 prefigures the coming difficulty and Yeshua’s help that’s available to us

1. Hated: Matthew 24:9 - all nations will hate us for being His disciples
2. Cold love common along with a culture of betrayal (Matthew 24:10-12)
3. Great falling away prophesied (2 Thess 2:1-3)
  - a. many Believers are not expecting such difficulty
  - b. much of the church thinks they will be raptured out

#### C. How Do We Survive...and even thrive?

### IV. THE GREATEST TEACHING

#### A. Benefits

1. Yeshua gave us this teaching in order to keep us from falling away (John 16:1) and for us to have joy (John 15:11)
2. We are to interact with God according to these truths
3. We’re given the promised Holy Spirit (John 16:7-15)

#### B. Bring Words With You (from Mike Bickle’s notes)

1. Hosea taught that returning to YHWH includes bringing words to speak to Him (Hos. 14:1-3).  
<sup>1</sup>O Israel, return to the LORD...<sup>2</sup>Take words with you, and return to the LORD. (Hos. 14:1-2)
2. In Deuteronomy 30, Moses taught that the command to love and obey God was not *too mysterious* (too hard to understand), nor was not it *far off* (outside their ability), nor did they need to *ascend to heaven* (have a heavenly encounter), nor *go overseas* (to receive it at a revival center) to do it. His point is that the power to love God is so near us—in our mouths (30:14)—by speaking to God.

<sup>11</sup>This commandment...is not too mysterious for you, nor is it far off. <sup>12</sup>It is not in heaven, that you should say, "Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us...?" <sup>13</sup>Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, "Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us...?" <sup>14</sup>The word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it. (Deut. 30:11-14)

3. It starts with words—the Christian life is an ongoing dialogue with a Person. Jesus' words are *spirit and life* (Jn. 6:63), and His Word is *living and active* (Heb. 4:12). Over time, what He thinks, feels, says, and does gradually fills our hearts. Simple phrases spoken to God will impact our emotions.
4. Most of our life consists of words and deeds. Our *words* convey what we do in our *inner man* (thoughts and feelings) and our *deeds* relate to we do with our *outer man* (our actions)
5. Jesus' words filling our heart is foundational to maturing in the Trinitarian conversation (Jn. 15:7). The more that we engage in conversation with His words in our heart, the more His deeds will flow through us with authority in partnership with Him.

<sup>7</sup>If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. <sup>8</sup>By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit... (Jn. 15:7-8)

- a. Often, we can ask the Spirit to help us engage in the Trinitarian conversation—the pinnacle of human experience is to walk in loving union with God and with one another (17:21-26).
- b. We can speak with God regularly in short conversations—sometimes only 10 to 20 seconds, or 2 to 3 minutes, at times much longer.
- c. At first, it may be challenging to engage in the Trinitarian conversation on a regular basis, but this will change as we become more familiar with the language and speak more consistently in our "prayer conversation" with the Lord, resulting in our heart flowing in it.
- d. The Spirit is in you so just start speaking Bible verses and truths to the Lord. He will teach you more and more as you verbalize it to Him (and journal it) over next months and years. This is the same way that young children learn to talk in their home.

## V. PROCESS OF TRANSFORMATION

**A. Process to Transformation.** It follows this path:

1. Knowledge – we get the information (Bible truths)
2. Conversation – we communicate with God related to this information (we talk to Him)
3. Illumination – we receive small divine touches related to this and other information (new insights)
4. Inspiration – this motivates us to do new things (renewed motivation to obey)
5. Transformation – this is what we are ultimately looking to grow into (new emotions and thoughts) that are satisfying and pleasurable

**B. Don't Try Harder:** just to see more clearly