

Sermon Study Guide: What Would Jesus Say to Us?

Do Not Be Afraid — Week 2

Text: Revelation 2–3

Bottom Line:

Jesus sees His church clearly, loves His church deeply, and rewards His church faithfully.

Key Idea:

In Revelation 2–3, Jesus speaks to real churches in real places with real strengths, struggles, sins, pressures, and promises. His pattern is: **I see. I know. Here's what's true. Here's what to do. Here's what's waiting for you.**

READ

Read **Revelation 2:1–7** and **Revelation 3:14–22** aloud.

Then scan the seven letters and notice the repeated phrase:

“Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

Jesus is not speaking only to ancient congregations. He is speaking to His church now. He sees what is really going on beneath reputation, activity, pressure, compromise, and comfort.

DISCUSS

1. Jesus repeatedly says, **“I know.”** What is comforting about being fully known by Jesus? What is unsettling?
 2. Ephesus was doctrinally serious and hardworking, but had lost its first love. How can a church, or a Christian, be right about many things and still lose the heart of what matters?
 3. Smyrna and Philadelphia were weak and pressured, yet Jesus calls them rich and faithful. How does that challenge our usual measures of success?
 4. Sardis and Laodicea had reputation, resources, and comfort, but Jesus saw spiritual danger. Why can comfort make us numb to our need for God?
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COME AND SEE

Jesus Sees the Truth

Jesus' eyes are like fire. He sees through appearances. He sees faithfulness no one else notices, compromise people have learned to excuse, love that has gone cold, and weakness that is actually strength.

See also: **Revelation 1:14; Hebrews 4:13; Psalm 139:1–12**

Jesus Corrects the Church He Loves

Jesus' warnings are not the words of a detached critic. They are the words of the Lord who walks among the lampstands. He loves His church enough to call it back to life, truth, repentance, endurance, and love.

See also: **Hebrews 12:5–11; Proverbs 3:11–12; Revelation 3:19**

Faithfulness Requires Love and Truth

Ephesus shows us that truth without love becomes cold. Pergamum and Thyatira show us that love without truth becomes compromise. Christian faithfulness requires both.

See also: **Ephesians 4:15; John 1:14; 1 Corinthians 13:1–3**

Pressure Is Not Permanent

To suffering churches, Jesus says, "Do not be afraid." He does not pretend suffering is unreal, but He reminds them that it is limited, temporary, and held under His authority.

See also: **Revelation 2:8–11; John 16:33; 2 Corinthians 4:16–18; 1 Peter 1:6–7**

Jesus Promises Victory to Those Who Hold Fast

Every letter ends with a promise to "the one who is victorious." The victory does not come by avoiding difficulty, but by holding fast to Christ in love, truth, repentance, and perseverance.

See also: **Revelation 21:1–7; Revelation 22:1–5; Romans 8:37–39**

FOLLOW ME

1. Recover Your First Love

Ephesus had deeds, doctrine, endurance, and discernment. But Jesus says they had forsaken the love they had at first.

- Have you had a season where your faith was dutiful but not deeply affectionate toward Jesus?
- What did love for Jesus look like in an earlier season of your life?
- What would it mean for a church/Christian to “do the things you did at first”?

2. Hold On Under Pressure

Smyrna and Philadelphia were not impressive by worldly standards. They had affliction, poverty, and little strength. Yet Jesus calls them faithful.

- Is there an area where you feel weak, pressured, or spiritually tired?
- How does it change your courage to know Jesus sees your affliction and your endurance?
- What would help you be faithful if the situation does not change quickly?

3. Confront Compromise Early

Compromise rarely begins with a dramatic denial of Jesus. It usually begins with one small, tolerated exception.

- What is one “small bite” of compromise you have been excusing?
- Where have you become more hospitable to sin than hostile toward it?
- What does the surrounding culture make seem normal that Scripture calls destructive?

4. Wake Up from Comfortable Numbness

Sardis had a reputation for life but was dead. Laodicea had wealth and confidence but did not know its need.

- What comforts make it easier for you to ignore spiritual need?

- Where do you say, “I’ve got this,” when you actually need Jesus?
 - Who has permission to wake you up if you become numb?
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GO AND BE

This week, ask the question:

What is Jesus saying to me?

Set aside 15 quiet minutes. Read Revelation 2–3 and choose one of the seven churches that most reflects your current spiritual condition.

Then complete these prompts:

Jesus, I hear You affirming _____.

Jesus, I hear You correcting _____.

Jesus, I hear You calling me to _____.

Jesus, I hear You promising _____.

Take one concrete step of obedience this week:

- return to a practice that rekindles love for Jesus,
- confess one compromise,
- ask someone to pray for your endurance,
- tell the truth about where you are numb,
- open the door to Jesus through prayer, repentance, worship, or restored fellowship.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, You walk among Your churches. You see us clearly and love us completely. Awaken what is asleep. Rekindle what has grown cold. Strengthen what is weak. Expose what is compromised. Free us from comfortable numbness. Give us ears to hear what Your Spirit is saying, and give us courage to respond. Amen.