

Cake Pan

Scripture:

"And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: 'The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation.'" "I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Materials List:

- (1) Lukewarm water
- (1) Hot water
- (1) Ice water

Main Message:

Every one of us needs to determine to be useful whether the work to be done will bring us glory or not and whether the task is small or great.

Song: Pierce My Ear

Lesson:

Two 6" round cake pans sit in the back of the cupboard. They get pulled out when there's a birthday or other special occasion, but for the most part, they just sit... and sit... and gather dust... and sit some more. The 9"x13" pan, on the other hand, is used almost daily. Cornbread, lasagna, rice, mexican casserole, honeybun cake-- many recipes go in this pan. If it broke, it would have to be replaced within a day or two.

In Revelation 3:14-22, Jesus has much to say against the church at Laodicea. The sum of it all, though, is that they have become lukewarm-- neither hot nor cold (3:15-16). In the first century, cold water was useful (pleasant to drink) and hot water was useful (medicinal). Lukewarm water, though, is largely useless. Some Christians today act like those of Laodicea. They are the cake pans. They show up and do a bit of work for VBS or another special occasion, but for the most part, they sit in the pews on Sundays and Wednesdays, largely useless to the church. Others are the 9"x13" pans. If the building needs cleaned, they do it. If the bulletin boards need to be redone, they do it. If a widow needs her lawn mowed, they do it. High tasks, low tasks, it doesn't matter to them. They make themselves useful.

Cake pans are cake pans and aren't going to change, but Christians can change. If you find yourself to be a cake pan Christian, find someone in the habit of being useful and ask how you can help. If you are more like a 9"x13" pan, find someone who doesn't usually serve and offer them a specific opportunity to help. The Christians of Laodicea were about to be spat out. It hadn't happened yet, but if they did not repent, they would soon find themselves in outer darkness. Every one of us needs to determine to be useful whether the work to be done will bring us glory or not and whether the task is small or great. As Christ charged the Laodiceans, "Be zealous and repent!" (Revelation 3:19)

Prayer: Thank God for the many opportunities to serve and the abilities given to each individual to be useful. Ask God to help you find ways to serve and for the strength to serve to the best of your ability.