



THE DISAPPOINTED CHICKEN

Rev. 3:14-22

INTRO: At one time I had a little red hen that was my pet. She would ride on my bicycle handlebars and follow me around; but, when it came time for her to set, she would cover any thing (glass eggs; round smooth stones; or even a doorknob or a turnip). When John wrote of the condition of the church at Laodicea, it reminds me of the little old red hen.

I. WHO IS SHE?

She is the modern Laodiceaians. They are self-satisfied. They feel they have need of nothing, that they have already attained. They have been born again and attend church at least once a week. They have nodded through Bible class and snored through sermons and fallen asleep while trying to read the Bible or while it was being read. All of this has made them drowsy with indifference and lukewarmness. They spend more time being the social butterfly, the bell of the ball, or the town political boss. They read more of the paper or a magazine than their Bible. They fail to realize that Christians are worth something to the Lord, and to please Him they must do His will. They do not please Him just by accident. Because of the little growth they have had and the little work they have done in the past, they have great expectation of eternal life. Luke 9:62; Phil 3:12-14.

II. WHAT IS HER CONDITION?

Blind, miserable, poor, naked, and thinking that past growth is enough, they are asleep (have no oil). Matt. 25:1-13. They are unprofitable to the Lord and are about to be spewed out of the Lord's mouth. Rev. 3:16. As older Christians, they should be teachers, but have need of someone teaching them the first principles. Heb. 5:11-14. They should be eating strong meat, but need milk. This condition of failing to advance would cause them much alarm in their children in school work, but they seem to think nothing about this drowsy indifference of lukewarmness, which has made their Christian life a failure and will cause the Lord to spew them out of His mouth.

III. WHY SHALL SHE BE DISAPPOINTED?

Disappointment will come because she expects to hatch eternal life out of doorknobs and turnips. She thinks that her past works and growth is enough to give her eternal life. Many have studied so little and lived such a little for the Lord in Godliness, that they have no idea of the joys and blessings in living for Christ. What a disappointment for a hen to think she is going to hatch out something, as she sets idle and sleepy, but to receive nothing for her time spent. So will it be a great disappointment for the lukewarm members of the church who have wasted their time setting idle in the Lord's vineyard. Gal. 6:7-8. Many think they will sow their wild oats and will repent later. What a sad state. Hell awaits.

IV. WHAT MUST SHE DO?

She must leave her lukewarm state—leave her indifference, sleeping, starving, twisted state. Those like her must take heed to the statement of Christ. Rev. 3:19-22. She must go to Christ who has the gold to make her rich. He has the eye salve to make her see and the garments to hide her nakedness. We must turn to him. Rev. 2:10; Rom. 13:11-12; 1 Cor. 15:34; 1 Thess. 5:6-8; Eph. 5:14.

CONCL: If members can get in this condition, friend, what about those who never become members. You can be made clean today. Obey today.