

16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> October 2013

# Home Group Study Notes

Crazy Love\* (Chapter 5&6)

## Are you in Love or Serving Leftovers?



*"I think that most people would like to believe that God doesn't expect too much from us. I'd say that most Christians live as though God wants a minimal commitment from us but is absolutely thrilled when we surprise Him by going above and beyond. (In scripture) ..what I see instead is God warning us again and again about the dangers of being lukewarm...He calls us to let go of everything we have and follow Him."*

In Malachi Chapter 1 when Malachi was prophesying, the people of Israel were going through the religious motions. They were frequenting the temple, offering sacrifices, and saying prayers. But God takes the notion that half-hearted worship is better than no worship at all and blows it completely out of the water.

\*Studies inspired by "Living Crazy Love", a book by Francis Chan

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**Read Malachi 1:6-14**

According to Malachi 1, what were the Israelites doing wrong in their approach to God?

How does God respond to their half-hearted sacrifices? And why does He react like this?

In what ways do you think we may be in danger of serving leftovers to God like the Israelites did in Malachi 1?

*"We disgust God when we weigh and compare Him against the things of this world."* What do you think the solution to lukewarmness is?

Are you willing to say to God that He can have whatever he wants? Do you believe that whole hearted commitment to Him is more important than any other thing or person in your life? What would this look like in someone's life? ...In our lives?

**But when you're in love...**

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**Read Crazy Love p98** ( down to ...”in His book *God is Gospel*”)

Have we ever met someone who was/is utterly and desperately in love with Jesus? How was their love for Jesus obvious and what impact did they have on you/others?

*You go to great lengths to be with the one you love...* (see examples p98)  
How accurately does this describe our relationship with God?

**Read Psalm 63:1-5**

Pick out some of the phrases that jump out at you from this passage.  
Is this a true reflection of our daily relationship with God? If not, why not?

*“The solution is not to try harder. It does no good to muster up more love for God, to will yourself to love Him more. Loving Him is not an obligation... The answer lies in letting Him change you... I need God to help me love God.”*

God’s counsel to the lukewarm church in Laodicea was “Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me” (Rev 3:20).

Together unpack what Revelation 3 and the quote above really mean.

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**Note to leaders:**

***If using the DVD – show the Chapter 6 clip (2min 55sec to 5min 17sec in particular)***

Which is more difficult for you, relating to God with intimacy or approaching Him with reverence? Why do you think this is more difficult for you?

How can we better hold reverence and intimacy together in our relationship with Christ?

**Over the coming days consider this prayer.**

*“Jesus, I need to give myself up. I’m not strong enough to love You and walk with You on my own. I can’t do it, and I need You. I need You deeply and desperately. I believe You are worth it, that You are better than anything else that I could have in this life or the next. I want You. And when I don’t, I want to want You. Be all in me. Take all of me. Have your way with me.” [Amen]*

**The next home group meeting is on 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Nov**

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