They were doing some ‘man-on-the-street’ interviews recently. They asked this one guy, “What do you think is the biggest challenge to America today?” The man replied, “I couldn’t say.”

They also asked him, “What is the greatest spiritual issue facing Americans today?” The man replied straight–up, “I don’t know and I don’t care.” That man **IS** the problem in America today.

Indifference, apathy and lack of conviction are rampant, from sea to shining sea. This is true outside of the of the fellowship of the church. In some cases, it is also true inside the family of God.

If **WE** are waiting for someone else to get on fire for God and earnestly seek for renewal and revival, ***WE* ARE** part of the problem!

Listen to this little story . . . It’s a story about four people named **Everybody**, **Somebody**, **Anybody**, and **Nobody**.

There was an important job to be done and **Everybody** was sure that **Somebody** would do it.

**Anybody** could have done it, but **Nobody** did it. **Somebody** got angry about that because it was **Everybody's** job.

**Everybody** thought that **Anybody** could do it, but **Nobody** realized that **Everybody** wouldn't do it. It ended up that **Everybody** blamed **Somebody** when **Nobody** did what **Anybody** could have done. And the MOST troubling thing is that **Nobody** did this important job.

What ***WAS*** the important job? Well, let’s see what it **could** be …

* Could it be the task of evangelizing the lost?
* Could it be praying for missionaries?
* Could it be interceding for those in need?
* Could it be serving in Jesus’ name?
* Could be seeking God for revival?

As long as there is breath, there is ***hope***. As long as there is time, there is ***opportunity***. It is never too late to the right thing, no matter what Tonya Tucker’s song said.

In our text today we will consider three things:

1. What God has done for His people in the past;
2. What the God could do for His people, and
3. What are some results if God does what He could do.

**1. WHAT GOD HAS DONE FOR HIS PEOPLE IN THE PAST (RECOGNITION) (1-3)**

A. Recognizing Who He IS

1. He is the LORD (YHWH) (1, 7)

2. He is the God of our salvation (7, 4)

B. Recognizing what He has done

1. Showed favor to His Land (1)

2. Restored the fortunes of Jacob

3. Forgave Your people’s guilt (2)

4. Covered all their sin

5. Withdrew all Your fury (3)

6. Turned from Your burning anger

**2. WHAT THE GOD COULD DO FOR HIS PEOPLE (REQUESTING)**

A. Return (4)

B. Remove displeasure

C. Revive us again (6)

D. Reveal Your faithful love (7)

E. Reward us with your salvation

Did you notice that there is **NO call to repentance** in our passage?

Could it be that God’s people weren’t that bad. They just weren’t that good, either.

I heard about a time when the pastor was standing by the door to greet folks as they were exiting after the morning serve. This one lady smile sweetly as she said, “Pastor that was a mighty warm sermon this morning.” Then pastor replied, “Oh, thank you so much…”

The lady interrupted him to say, “Pastor, what I mean is, ***it wasn't too hot***.” Well, OUUUCCHHH!

Could it be that our nation and world are in this shape **because God’s people** are “not too hot?” What do we call water if it is warm, but not too hot? Right — lukewarm. How does Jesus feel about “lukewarm” church people? They make Him SICK. Look at Rev 3.14ff . . .

What was the solution that the Lord had for this lukewarm fellowship at Laodicea? He challenged them to ***do business with the Lord***!

1. Buy gold (18) RICHES wealth

2. Buy clothes (18) RAIMENT wearables

3. But eye salve (18) REMEDY wonder-drug

They thought, but they didn’t KNOW. They thought they were rich and wealthy and needed nothing. They didn’t know that they were wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. Fortunately, Jesus loves them enough to call them out. He loves us enough to challenge us as well.

They need to HEAR what the Spirit - what the Lord Jesus - is saying. They need to do business with Jesus. Jesus says “***Buy from ME***;” that is doing business with Jesus!

He tells them, “*Be zealous and repent*.” Don’t be satisfied; don’t be comfortable; don’t be complacent; don’t be lukewarm. Be zealous and repent.

Rather “*be ZEALOUS*” — this word zealous means “to burn with zeal; to be heated or to boil. Jesus challenged this lukewarm church to ***get fired-up***! Jesus challenges us to be on fire for God. I’d rather burn-out than freeze-up.

**3. WHAT HAPPENS IF GOD DOES WHAT HE COULD DO (RESULTS)**

A. Relationship renewed (4)

B. Rejoicing in the Lord (6)

C. Restoration (7)

There is a story of a young man who was a disciple of a great sage. One day the young man came to his teacher. “Teacher,” he said, how can I know more of God?”

“Is it truly your desire to know more of God?” the sage asked the young man. ”Oh, yes. Truly it is.”

“Then, come with me to the river,” was the instruction of the sage. In silence they walked. They reached the river, and the sage walked right in, nearly up his chest in the cool, flowing water. The young man followed, not really knowing what else to do, but expecting a wise lesson.

Slowly the sage turned to the young man and put his hands on his shoulders. Looking into his eyes the sage asked, “Are you ready to learn how you may know more of God?” “Oh, Yes. Please.”

With cat-like movements the old man pushed the student under the water and held him fast. The young man fought and flailed, but to no avail against the old sage. Finally, the sage yanked the young man up, sputtering and coughing, back up above the surface of the river.

Still, he was holding his student by the shoulders, now even more firmly. The sage looked him dead in the eyes and said, “My son, when you want to know God as badly as you wanted the air when you were under water, He will grant your desire.”

“*Wilt Thou not revive us again*?” He’s done it before. He could do it again. ***IS*** this what we want? ***Is*** this our prayer. Are we hungering and thirsting after the Lord our God? Is that the desire of our hearts?? How badly do we want to know more of God?

* Are we **ON FIRE** for God, or are we just warm, lukewarm?
* Maybe ***WE*** need to do business with Jesus.
* Maybe we need to **want** revival just a little more.
* Maybe we ***need to be zealous and repent***.

Do we really, really WANT the Lord to work in us?

Do we ***really want*** Revival in our hearts, in our church, in our land?

In Rev 3.10, Jesus told His church, “*See, 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*.”

Dearly Beloved, this is Jesus knocking today, this morning - RIGHT NOW. Do you hear Him? Jesus is knocking. Won’t you open up to Him?!?! Won’t you open up and let Him in.

Lord, “will You not revive us again, so that your people may rejoice in You?”