



# ~ Thought For The Day ~

~gathering from the 4 winds~

“come just as you are”

**Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing**



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## Prayer

Lord, I never want to be lukewarm so that You find me to be an unpleasant taste in Your mouth. Instead, I ask You to help me be a fountain from which healing waters flow to the sick and a source of refreshment to anyone who needs strength and encouragement. Help me to never allow a lukewarm attitude to take hold in my life! If there is any area of my life where I've already slipped into a lukewarm state, please reveal it to me so I can repent and get back to where I ought to be, in Jesus' name. Amen.

## Scripture

Exodus 39: 1-43 (AMP)

1 AND OF the blue and purple and scarlet [stuff] they made finely wrought garments for serving in the Holy Place; they made the holy garments for Aaron, as the Lord had commanded Moses. 2 And Bezalel made the ephod of gold, blue, purple, and scarlet [stuff], and fine twined linen. 3 And they beat the gold into thin sheets and cut it into wires to work into the blue, purple, and scarlet [stuff] and the fine linen, in skilled design. 4 They made shoulder pieces for the ephod, joined to it at its two edges. 5 And the skillfully woven band on it, to gird it on, was of the same piece and workmanship with it, of gold, blue, purple, and scarlet [stuff], and fine twined linen, as the Lord had commanded Moses. 6 And they prepared the onyx stones enclosed in settings of gold filigree and engraved as signets are engraved with the names of the sons of Israel. 7 And he put them on the shoulder pieces of the ephod to be stones of memorial or remembrance for the Israelites, as the Lord had commanded Moses. 8 And [Bezalel] made the breastplate skillfully, like the work of the ephod, of gold, blue, purple, and scarlet [stuff], and fine twined linen. 9 The breastplate was a [hand's] span square when doubled over. 10 And they set in it four rows of stones; a sardius, a topaz, and a carbuncle made the first row; 11 The second row an emerald, a sapphire, and a diamond; 12 The third row a jacinth, an agate, and an amethyst; 13 And the fourth row a beryl, an onyx, and a jasper; they were enclosed in settings of gold filigree. 14 There were twelve stones with their names according to those of the sons of Israel, engraved like a signet, each with its name, according to the twelve tribes. 15 And they made [at the ends] of the breastplate twisted chains like cords, of pure gold. 16 And they made two settings of gold filigree and two gold rings which they put on the two ends of the breastplate. 17 And they put the two twisted cords or woven chains of gold in the two rings on the end edges of the breastplate. 18 And the other two ends of the twisted cords or chains of gold they put on the two settings and put them on the shoulder pieces of the ephod, in front. 19 They made two rings of gold and put them on the two ends of the breastplate, on the inside edge of it next to the ephod. 20 And they made two [other] gold rings and attached them to the two shoulder pieces of the ephod underneath, in front, at its joining above the skillfully woven band of the ephod. 21 They bound the breastplate by its rings to those of the ephod with a blue lace, that it might lie upon the skillfully woven band of the ephod and that the breastplate might not be loosed from the ephod, as the Lord commanded Moses. 22 And he made the robe of the ephod of woven work all of blue. 23 And there was an opening [for the head] in the middle of the robe like the hole in a coat of mail, with a binding around it, that it should not be torn. 24 On the skirts of the robe they made pomegranates of blue and purple and scarlet [stuff] and twined linen. 25 And they made bells of pure gold and put [them] between the pomegranates around the skirts of the robe; 26 A bell and a pomegranate, a bell and a pomegranate, round about on the skirts of the robe for ministering, as the Lord commanded Moses. 27 And they made the long and sleeved tunics woven of fine linen for Aaron and his sons, 28 And the turban, and the ornamental caps of fine linen, and the breeches of fine twined linen, 29 The girdle or sash of fine twined linen, and blue, purple, and scarlet embroidery, as the Lord commanded Moses. 30 And they made the plate of the holy crown of pure gold and wrote upon it an inscription, like the engravings of a signet, HOLY TO THE LORD. 31 They tied to it a lace of blue to fasten it on the turban above, as the Lord commanded Moses. 32 Thus all the work of the tabernacle of the Tent of Meeting was finished; according to all that the Lord commanded Moses, so the Israelites had done. 33 And they brought the tabernacle to Moses: the tent and all its furnishings, its clasps, its [frame] boards, its bars, its pillars, its sockets or bases; 34 And the covering of rams' skins made red, and the covering of dolphin or porpoise skins, and the veil of the screen; 35 The ark of the Testimony, its poles,

and the mercy seat; 36 The table and all its utensils, and the showbread (bread of the Presence); 37 The pure [gold] lampstand and its lamps, with the lamps set in order, all its utensils, and the oil for the light; 38 The golden altar, the anointing oil, the fragrant incense, and the hanging for the door of the tent; 39 The bronze altar and its grate of bronze, its poles and all its utensils; the laver and its base; 40 The hangings of the court, its pillars and sockets or bases, and the screen for the court gate, its cords, and pegs, and all the utensils for the service of the tabernacle, for the Tent of Meeting [of God with His people]; 41 The finely worked vestments for ministering in the Holy Place, the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and the garments of his sons to minister as priests. 42 According to all that the Lord had commanded Moses, so the Israelites had done all the work. 43 And Moses inspected all the work, and behold, they had done it; as the Lord had commanded, so had they done it. And Moses blessed them.

**Moses Inspects The Work; V 42** Everything was done according to the blueprints, just as the Lord had ordered; to be a model of things in heaven (Hebrews 8:5). (OT Study Guide; The Word For Today; 2005; Chuck Smith; Commentaries; page 42)

#### the blue

**Ex 25:4** — Blue, purple, and scarlet [stuff] and fine twined linen and goats' hair,

**Ex 26:1** — **MOREOVER, YOU** shall make the tabernacle with ten curtains; of fine twined linen, and blue and purple and scarlet [stuff], with cherubim skillfully embroidered shall you make them.

**Ex 35:23** — And everyone with whom was found blue or purple or scarlet [stuff], or fine linen, or goats' hair, or rams' skins made red [in tanning], or dolphin or porpoise skins brought them.

#### Cloths

**Ex 31:10** — The finely worked garments, the holy garments for Aaron the [high] priest and for his sons to minister as priests,

**Ex 35:19** — The finely wrought garments for ministering in the Holy Place, the holy garments for Aaron the [high] priest and for his sons to minister as priests.

#### holy place

**Ps 93:5** — Your testimonies are very sure; holiness [apparent in separation from sin, with simple trust and hearty obedience] is becoming to Your house, O Lord, forever.

**Eze 43:12** — This is the law of the house [of the Lord]: The whole area round about on the top of the mountain [Mount Moriah] shall be most holy, separated, and set apart. Behold, this is the law of the house [of the Lord].

**Heb 9:12** — He went once for all into the [Holy of] Holies [of heaven], not by virtue of the blood of goats and calves [by which to make reconciliation between God and man], but His own blood, having found and secured a complete redemption (an everlasting release for us).

**Heb 9:25** — Nor did He [enter into the heavenly sanctuary to] offer Himself regularly again and again, as the high priest enters the [Holy of] Holies every year with blood not his own.

#### the holy

**Ex 28:2-4** — And you shall make for Aaron your brother sacred garments [appointed official dress set apart for special holy services] for honor and for beauty. 3 Tell all who are expert, whom I have endowed with skill and good judgment, that they shall make Aaron's garments to sanctify him for My priesthood. 4 They shall make these garments: a breastplate, an ephod [a distinctive vestment to which the breastplate was to be attached], a robe, long and sleeved tunic of checkerwork, a turban, and a sash or band. They shall make sacred garments for Aaron your brother and his sons to minister to Me in the priest's office.

**Ex 31:10** — The finely worked garments, the holy garments for Aaron the [high] priest and for his sons to minister as priests,

**Eze 42:14** — When the priests enter the Holy Place, they shall not go out of it into the outer court unless they lay aside there the garments in which they minister, for these are holy, separate, and set apart. They shall put on other garments before they approach that which is for the people.

**Does Jesus Find You To Be Therapeutic, Refreshing, or Disgusting?****Revelation 3:16**

In Russia, it is a tradition for people to visit the sauna. People especially love to do this in the middle of the winter. This tradition is hundreds of years old, dating back to the time when people didn't have running water in their villages or homes. People would join all their friends at the local sauna once a week not only to get clean but to spend an evening of fellowship.

Today everyone has running water in their homes in Russia; nevertheless, people still go to the sauna, for it remains a very important part of Russian culture. And because I live in Russia, I frequently go to the local sauna with brothers from the church for an evening of fellowship and prayer.

After we have all sat in sweltering hot temperatures, I watch in shock as the Russian men leap into huge tubs of bitterly cold water. Or sometimes while we're on a ministry trip, we'll stay at a farm and I'll take a sauna with the brothers from the local church. These brothers will run out of the building; dive head first into the snow; roll around in it for a few minutes, screaming and shouting; and then dash back into the sauna where it's nice and warm. They tell me that the purpose for this practice is to get their blood moving!

I enjoy going to the sauna with my fellow brothers in the Lord, but I refuse to leap into subzero cold water or dive into snow when it's already forty degrees below zero outside! I don't care if it is good for the circulation; I will not do it! I find it much more enjoyable to rest in a tub of lukewarm water that is relaxing. Going from sweltering "hot" to freezing "cold" is just too much for me!

When I refuse to go from one extreme temperature to the other and even ask for lukewarm water to be poured into a tub especially for me, the men sometimes joke with me, reminding me about Jesus' words to the Laodiceans in Revelation 3:16: "So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth."

The city of Laodicea was built in a region that was full of seismic activity and had experienced many earthquakes. As often happens in a seismic area, vents came up from the depths of the earth, allowing boiling hot water to reach the surface. In the nearby city of Hierapolis, these hot springs were famous. People came from great distances to bathe in those waters, believing they had medicinal powers. An experience in those waters was viewed to be therapeutic and effective in improving one's health.

Another city named Colosse was not too far away. As Hierapolis was known for its hot springs, Colosse was known for its cold waters. Just as people journeyed to Hierapolis to bathe in the hot springs for health purposes, people would travel great distances to vacation in Colosse, where they could invigorate themselves by taking frequent dips into the famous, refreshing, cool-to-freezing waters of that city.

Laodicea may have been the biggest and richest city in the area, but it had neither hot nor cold water. Therefore, the people of Laodicea had to leave their luxurious homes and travel to Colosse if they wanted to enjoy fresh, cool water. On the other hand, those who desired to soak in the hot springs had to travel six miles to Hierapolis.

Once in an attempt to bring the hot water from Hierapolis to Laodicea, a huge construction project was commenced. The goal of those who initiated the project was to build pipes that would channel the hot water six miles from Hierapolis to the city of Laodicea. The pipes effectively delivered the water—a real feat of construction at that time. Sadly, however, the water lost its heat along the way. By the time the water reached Laodicea, it was not only lukewarm, but it had developed a sickening, nauseating taste. The taste was so revolting that no one wanted to drink it!

So when Jesus told the Laodiceans, "... Because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth," this was a message that carried a strong punch. He was telling them, "Because you have become so dead, dull, sickening and nauseating—because no spiritually refreshing waters flow from you and you have no healing properties left—I will spue thee out of My mouth!"

The word "spue" is the Greek word *emeo*, and it means to vomit, to spit out, to regurgitate. This picture of Jesus threatening to "spue" the Laodiceans out of His mouth doesn't mean He was rejecting them or disinheriting them. It just reveals how utterly distasteful a spiritually lukewarm condition is to Jesus. The fact that these believers were lukewarm means they weren't good for anything; they were neither cool and refreshing, nor were they hot and healing. They were just stuck in the middle, like something that has lost both its flavor and its heat along the way.

These words in Revelation 3:16 could be interpreted:

"Because you've lost your temperature and become lukewarm—because no refreshing waters flow out of you and you have no healing properties left—I find your taste in My mouth to be disgusting! I can't bear it anymore, and I have no choice but to spit you out!"

That's how God feels about a lukewarm spiritual walk. You see, with God there is no middle ground. But if you have allowed your walk with God to become lukewarm, you can reverse that abominable condition! God has tossed the ball in your court, and now it's up to you. He is calling you to repent of your lukewarm attitude. Go after the things of God with all your heart, soul, and strength!

Sparkling Gems from the Greek.

**QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER**

What are some signs of a lukewarm spiritual condition in your life?

Can you recall a time when you were "hot" for the Lord? What were you doing at that time that caused you to be so on fire for Jesus?

If you have slipped away from that wonderful time in your walk with the Lord, can you recall what changed the condition of your heart? What can you do to get back there again? Write down your answers so you can see them and pray about them.

Sparkling Gems from the Greek.

**Psalm 86:1-17 (AMP)**

1 INCLINE YOUR ear, O Lord, and answer me, for I am poor and distressed, needy and desiring. 2 Preserve my life, for I am godly and dedicated; O my God, save Your servant, for I trust in You [leaning and believing on You, committing all and confidently looking to You, without fear or doubt]. 3 Be merciful and gracious to me, O Lord, for to You do I cry all the day. 4 Make me, Your servant, to rejoice, O Lord, for to You do I lift myself up. 5 For You, O Lord, are good, and ready to forgive [our trespasses, sending them away, letting them go completely and forever]; and You are abundant in mercy and loving-kindness to all those who call upon You. 6 Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer; and listen to the cry of my supplications. 7 In the day of my trouble I will call on You, for You will answer me. 8 There is none like unto You among the gods, O Lord, neither are their works like unto Yours. 9 All nations whom You have made shall come and fall down before You, O Lord; and they shall glorify Your name. 10 For You are great and work wonders! You alone are God. 11 Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk and live in Your truth; direct and unite my heart [solely, reverently] to fear and honor Your name. 12 I will confess and praise You, O Lord my God, with my whole (united) heart; and I will glorify Your name forevermore. 13 For great is Your mercy and loving-kindness toward me; and You have delivered me from the depths of Sheol [from the exceeding depths of affliction]. 14 O God, the proud and insolent are risen against me; a rabble of violent and ruthless men has sought and demanded my life, and they have not set You before them. 15 But You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in mercy and loving-kindness and truth. 16 O turn to me and have mercy and be gracious to me; grant strength (might and inflexibility to temptation) to Your servant and save the son of Your handmaiden. 17 Show me a sign of [Your evident] goodwill and favor, that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame, because You, Lord, [will show Your approval of me when You] help and comfort me.

**Proverbs 30:1-33 (AMP)**

1 THE WORDS of Agur son of Jakeh of Massa: The man says to Ithiel, to Ithiel and to Ucal: 2 Surely I am too brutish and stupid to be called a man, and I have not the understanding of a man [for all my secular learning is as nothing]. 3 I have not learned skillful and godly Wisdom, that I should have the knowledge or burden of the Holy One. 4 Who has ascended into heaven and descended? Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has bound the waters in His garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is His name, and what is His Son's name, if you know? 5 Every word of God is tried and purified; He is a shield to those who trust and take refuge in Him. 6 Add not to His words, lest He reprove you, and you be found a liar. 7 Two things have I asked of You [O Lord]; deny them not to me before I die: 8 Remove far from me falsehood and lies; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, 9 Lest I be full and deny You and say, Who is the Lord? Or lest I be poor and steal, and so profane the name of my God. 10 Do not accuse and hurt a servant before his master, lest he curse you, and you be held guilty [of adding to the burdens of the lowly]. 11 There is a class of people who curse their fathers and do not bless their mothers. 12 There is a class of people who are pure in their own eyes, and yet are not washed from their own filth. 13 There is a class of people—oh, how lofty are their eyes and their raised eyelids! 14 There is a class of people whose teeth are as swords and whose fangs as knives, to devour the poor from the earth and the needy from among men. 15 The leech has two daughters, crying, Give, give! There are three things that are never satisfied, yes, four that do not say, It is enough: 16 Sheol (the place of the dead), the barren womb, the earth that is not satisfied with water, and the fire that says not, It is enough. 17 The eye that mocks a father and scorns to obey a mother, the ravens of the valley will pick it out, and the young vultures will devour it. 18 There are three things which are too wonderful for me, yes, four which I do not understand: 19 The way of an eagle in the air, the way of a serpent upon a rock, the way of a ship in the midst of the sea, and the way of a man with a maid. 20 This is the way of an adulterous woman: she eats and wipes her mouth and says, I have done no wickedness. 21 Under three things the earth is disquieted, and under four it cannot bear up: 22 Under a servant when he reigns, a [empty-headed] fool when he is filled with food, 23 An unloved and repugnant woman when she is married, and a maidservant when she supplants her mistress. 24 There are four things which are little on the earth, but they are exceedingly wise: 25 The ants are a people not strong, yet they lay up their food in the summer; 26 The conies are but a feeble folk, yet they make their houses in the rocks; 27 The locusts have no king, yet they go forth all of them by bands; 28 The lizard you can seize with your hands, yet it is in kings' palaces. 29 There are three things which are stately in step, yes, four which are stately in their stride: 30 The lion, which is mightiest among beasts and turns not back before any; 31 The war horse [well-knit in the loins], the male goat also, and the king [when his army is with him and] against whom there is no uprising. 32 If you have done foolishly in exalting yourself, or if you have thought evil, lay your hand upon your mouth. 33 Surely the churning of milk brings forth butter, and the wringing of the nose brings forth blood; so the forcing of wrath brings forth strife.