



Chapter Four: Profile of the Lukewarm

INTRODUCTION

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field." (Matthew 13:44). In this account, the man joyfully sold all that he had so that he could obtain the only thing that mattered. He knew that what he had stumbled upon – the kingdom of heaven – was more valuable than anything he had, so he went for it with everything in him. This kind of enthusiastic response to God's love is entirely appropriate. Yet what a contrast to our typical response at discovering the same treasure!

Watch Chapter Four Video

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Would you describe yourself as totally in love with Jesus Christ? Or do the words *half-hearted*, *lukewarm*, and *partially committed* fit better? What evidence is there to support your answer?
2. Have you ever experienced a desire for God so intense that it would lead you to let go of everything you wanted for His sake? If so, describe that desire and explain why God is worth giving up everything for.
3. If you've never experienced this type of desire (or if this desire is rare in your life), which desires would you say are stronger than your desire for the Lord? Why do you think this is?
4. What stood out to you the most and what hit you hardest in the descriptions of the lukewarm people in Chapter 4?
5. What changes do you need to make in your life to not be among the lukewarm?
6. Did you answer the previous questions out of guilt and fear or out of love for God? How might more increased love for God change the way you answer the preceding questions?
7. Keeping in mind everything you've thought through during this session, what things can you do to cultivate a stronger love for God?

ON YOUR OWN

Spend some time in prayer. It's impossible for you to overcome your tendencies toward being lukewarm by simply trying harder. You absolutely need God's power and God's Spirit to help you overcome your lack of love for God. Ask Him to work in your heart to increase your desire for Him. Spend some time simply enjoying His presence and seeking to draw near to Him. If it's been a while since you've felt close to God, be honest about that and ask God to restore your intimacy and fellowship with Him.

Read Chapter 5 before the next Session

