

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT LUKEWARM

Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, it seemed good to me also to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may have certainty concerning the truth of the Gospel so that you are not led into pernicious lies and heresies.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, Jesus came. He was a really nice guy! He loved children, nature and wedding receptions. With his winsome smile and good looks everyone liked him. He taught us that God is love, which means, of course, that love is God. Our desires are to be worshiped and our cravings are simply an expression of the will of God. He made it possible for us to pursue our own ambitions as a form of religious devotion. Hallelujah!

But it was the message he preached that made Jesus so popular. *The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; trust in me and you will be healthy, wealthy and happy!* Jesus backed these words with miraculous signs and wonders. He healed the sick, raised the dead, fed the hungry and pulled off some really cool miracles like walking on water, distributing free wine and pulling money out of a fish's mouth!

Going through the towns and villages of Galilee, Jesus called forth a band of merry men, calling them disciples. He wanted them to follow him so they could imitate his new and abundant way of living. He wanted them to have their best life now.

If anyone would come after me, let him esteem himself, assert his rights daily, and follow me. For whoever would save his life must look out for number one. For what does it profit a man if he loves and serves others in such a way that his own desires are never fulfilled? Blessed are the rich. Blessed are those who laugh. Blessed are those who are full and content. Blessed are those who are rewarded for their righteousness here and now for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

And so, most excellent Theophilus, the truth of the Gospel became evident to us all: God sent his son so we can be healthy, wealthy and happy. Now, go forth and preach the Good News. Invite others to get in on the good deal Jesus is offering. Be positive and optimistic. Always keep an open mind. Avoid like the plague those who run to extremes, being hot or cold. God loves it when his people are balanced, moderate and lukewarm. Above all, trust your heart and follow its desires. To your own self be true!

Saint Lukewarm