

## TOLERATING JEZEBEL

*Thyatira was growing in love and service but tolerated a false prophetess leading believers into sin.*



Thyatira, a smaller but economically active city in Asia Minor (modern Akhisar, Turkey), was known for its many trade guilds—dyers, potters, bronze-smiths, and others—which were deeply connected to pagan worship and social festivals that often involved idolatry and immorality. For Christians, guild membership was essential for economic survival but also carried constant pressure to compromise their faith. The church in Thyatira was commended by Jesus for its love, faith, service, perseverance, and growing ministry, yet it was also rebuked for tolerating a false teacher, symbolically called “Jezebel,” who encouraged believers to blend in by participating in ungodly practices. Christ warns that such compromise corrupts the church’s witness, calls them to repent and “hold fast” to His Word, and promises His presence and authority to those who remain faithful.

SEPTEMBER 28, 2025

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## LEADER GUIDE

### Big Idea

Jezebel-like leaders teach that it is acceptable to “play the game” with culture. Jesus warns that compromise corrodes faith and weakens the church's witness, calling us instead to “hold on” to His truth and remain distinct even when it's costly. His promise is that those who endure will share His authority and presence, receiving Christ Himself as their guiding light and eternal hope.

### Key Themes

1. **Love, Service, and Compromise** – Love and service are not indicators that compromise may not be at play.
2. **The power of leadership** – Voices of leadership hold power to influence - what voices are you listening to?
3. **All Disciples are leaders** – recognizing our positions of influence.
4. **Hold onto God's truth** – Jesus isn't asking us to do more, but to simply hold onto to what He has given us.
5. **The promise of reward** – Jesus' presence in every situation.

### Scripture Reading

- Revelation 2:18-29 (read aloud as a group).