



Lent 2020: Coming back to Jesus

Week 4: To the church in Philadelphia

Welcome and worship

Have you ever been locked in? locked out? (This is a light-hearted question by the way, not meant to be too personal or sensitive!)

⁷ To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:

These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. ⁸ I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. ⁹ I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars – I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you. ¹⁰ Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.

¹¹ I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. ¹² The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name. ¹³ Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

The story of the Church in Philadelphia

- A city that sat on a fault line, and therefore much more vulnerable than Sardis last week. Lots of people live on outlying farms. Poverty came when the Emperor ordered that grape production be reduced.

In this passage it talks about God opening doors that no-one can close (picking up a picture we first find in Isaiah 22). Do you have any stories of God opening doors recently?

Look at the promises from verse 11 for those who overcome:

- We will receive a crown
- We will be a pillar in God's temple
- We will have God's name written on us

Which of these catches our attention the most?

What one thing have you heard the Spirit say to you from this passage that you are going to take away with you?

Some space for notes here as you reflect on what God is saying to you: