



EP69

Jesus' Letters to Leaders: PHILADELPHIA

FOR THE GROUP LEADER

These notes have been designed to disciple leaders in round the table small group discussions.

What is in *ITALICS* is meant to be read out loud.

Welcome to this week's Mustard Seed Leadership discussion. The current series is “Jesus' Letters to Leaders”

STEP #1: ACCOUNTABILITY

*Let's get started. The topic of discussion today is “**PHILADELPHIA**” But before we start on the new topic, we will usually hold each other accountable about last week's action step.*

Since this is the first in the series, let's go straight to the notes.

STEP #2: READ THE NOTES

Option 1: Let each person in the group take turns reading a section. (Each section is marked with a **READER #**). Go clockwise starting with the Group Leader, and highlight or underline what catches your attention.

Option 2: The leader reads all the sections.

Option 3: Watch the video.

<https://youtu.be/Y3mN9p-ReOo>

READER 1

Jesus' Letters to Leaders

Jesus writes seven letters to seven messengers or leaders, giving seven lessons on leading victoriously

Previous Lessons:

- 1. EPHESUS** - Kingdom leaders are *in love with Jesus*
- 2. SMYRNA** - Kingdom leaders understand *suffering*
- 3. PERGAMUM** - Kingdom leaders know *how to wield the sword of God's Word*
- 4. THYATIRA** - Kingdom leaders know *how to operate in Authority*
- 5. SARDIS** - Kingdom Leaders know *how to measure success*

LESSON #6 - PHILADELPHIA

Kingdom Leaders know the power of consistency

John Maxwell - “Consistency is one of the most unsexy but powerful leadership lessons there is”

Had the privilege of leading the same church for 21 years with the same vision, same values, same name and only a single venue change!

- Can see now the compounded effect of consistency
- Consistency in the right direction is a powerful force

Revelation 3:7-13 (NIV)

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.

READER 2

REVELATION

1. Him who is holy and true

Holy - set apart from sin and unto God. Jesus kept himself completely separated from everything sinful.

True - set apart from all that is lies and deception. Jesus kept himself completely in the truth of God.

In other words Jesus is completely separated or KEPT from that which is sinful or untrue.

We will see that the word **KEPT** is the key that unlocks this letter. And Jesus is the One who **KEPT** Himself apart from sin and lies and **KEPT** Himself separated unto God.

2. Who holds the key of David

The key of David is the authority of the King

- David was the greatest of the Old Testament kings and a picture of the coming Messiah.
- In fact Jesus fulfilled the covenant promise to David that he will always have a son on the Throne
- The key is a symbol of authority - like the master key that can lock or unlock any door
- There is no door that the greatest king cannot keep open or keep closed.

When Peter got the revelation that Jesus is the Christ - Jesus said that with the revelation of Jesus as the Christ come the keys of the Kingdom:

Matthew 16:19 (NIV)

19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

Bring this twofold revelation together and you have Jesus, one who is kept from sin and deception and who can keep any door open or closed.

BIG IDEA: *The consistency of keeping yourself from sin and lies keeps doors of opportunity open and doors of disaster closed.*

READER 3

CHALLENGE

Revelation 3:8-11 (NIV)

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.

No call to repentance!

Simply a challenge to keep going!

- Despite having little strength - **keep walking through the open doors.**
- Despite opportunities to compromise - **keep faithful to His word**
- Despite the opposition from lying and deceiving religious leaders - **keep persevering and see what happens to them**

And what Jesus says - because you have been consistent and kept going

- I will keep the doors of opportunity and breakthrough open
- I will keep the door on your enemies closed
- I will keep the door of disaster that I am opening on the whole world, closed to you!

BIG IDEA: Consistency in the right direction keeps the right doors open and the wrong doors closed

READER 4

REWARD

Revelation 3:12 -13 (NIV)

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 beautiful reward for earthly consistency is eternal consistency

- You have kept the pillars of my Word and now I will keep you as a pillar in my Temple
- You have kept my Name and now I will keep My Name on you forever

It is amazing how we are created to reflect God's glory here on earth.

But it also seems that Jesus then reflects that back as our glory for all eternity!

READER 5

CONCLUSION:

BIG IDEA: Keeping consistent in holiness and truth keeps doors of opportunity open and doors of disaster closed

Consistency might not be a 'sexy' characteristic

- But in the Kingdom it is a very powerful one

CONSISTENCY OF TRUTH AND HOLINESS KEEPS DOORS OF OPPORTUNITY OPEN AND DOORS OF DISASTER CLOSED

STEP #3: SHARE YOUR HIGHLIGHT

*Now let's go around the group and take turns sharing what stood out to you the most from what we read. **What stood out to you and why?***

STEP #4: EVALUATION

*I am going to ask each of you in turn to evaluate yourself (From a 5 which is **EXCELLENT**, down to a 1 meaning **LOTS OF WORK NEEDED!**) on how well you are doing in the area of this topic and then share this with the group and why you chose this score.*

STEP #5: Application

Lastly, let's go around the group and answer the following questions:

- 1. If you evaluate yourself as a leader, do you display a high or low level of consistency in terms of character, vision and strategy?***
- 2. When you review your history as a leader, can you recognize how consistency or lack of consistency has worked for or against you?***
- 3. What are some things, especially in the areas of holiness and truth, that you should be giving more attention to ‘keeping’?***

CLOSING

A great way to close off is to pair up briefly for a moment of prayer. Pray for each other that you will succeed in your action steps. Thank everyone for coming and committing to grow as a disciple of Jesus.

For more notes visit:

<https://outlookchurch.co.za/mustardseedleadership>

