

HOMework

Spring 2022 | Week 7

Sermon Date 5/15/2022

MY STORY

- 1) What fictional world or place would you like to visit?
- 2) Have you ever completed anything on your “bucket list”?

QUICK REVIEW

- 3) What caught your attention from Sunday’s message?

DIGGING DEEPER / TAKING IT HOME

Revelation 2:8-11 (ESV)

⁸“And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: ‘The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life.

⁹“I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not but are a synagogue of Satan. ¹⁰Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. ¹¹He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.’

- 4) How does Jesus encourage the church in Smyrna in this passage?
- 5) What does Jesus say of the group slandering the church?
- 6) What were some in the church facing, and how does Jesus encourage them?

This is a sobering truth. Persecution is real and many churches across the globe deal with this daily. I have a pastor friend that runs a ministry in northern India that shares stories regularly of the struggles of his churches and pastors. Jesus is doing amazing things through them, but the struggle is real. Here in America, this is not the norm, it is

fairly easy to be a Jesus follower without risk of being thrown into jail, but this may not always be the case. Let's be real for a moment, suffering whether from persecution or from the consequences of sin (mine or someone else's that affects me) is a very real thing for the believer.

In Matthew 6:19-20 Jesus teaches us:

¹⁹ "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

- 7) With this in mind what can we learn from Jesus' words to Smyrna?
- 8) Is keeping this as a focus easy or challenging for you personally, if so, how?
- 9) There is an old saying, "this person is so heavenly minded they are no earthly good." Is this statement true or false, if so please explain?
- 10) What does verse 11 mean?

CHAIR TIME TOOLS

Read Revelation Chapters 1-2 and pray and think about the following questions.

- 1) How does the picture of the glorified Jesus offer encouragement?
- 2) What do the words of Jesus to the churches teach me about His heart for His churches?
- 3) What is God asking you to do differently as a result of these passages?