



Loving Jesus, Loving People, Plowing a Counter-Culture

SERMON TEXT: 2 Corinthians 8:16-9:5

MAIN POINT: Being careful in our ministry

REFLECTION:

[1] In the sermon this week, Pastor Ryan spoke to us about some of the dangers of getting tired of ministry, or becoming “bored” with the Gospel. What are some reasons for why you think Christians sometimes become tired of ministry, or bored with the Gospel?

[2] What do we do if we have become “bored” in ministry, or how do we guard ourselves from losing interest in the Gospel?

[3] What bible verses or passages do you know that might help someone struggling in their desires for the things of God?

[4] In the sermon, Ryan spoke about the balance of planning wisely, yet relying humbly upon God to establish those plans or change them entirely. In your opinion, what does it look like to be both wise and faithful in establishing our plans?

[5] How would you describe the difference between being “careful” with our plans vs being “fearful?”

[6] Why is it important for us to stay above approach in our lives? What does that look like on a practical, daily basis?

[7] Who is someone in your life that stirs up joy and encouragement in your life? What is it about their own joy that most encourages you?

[8] Where, in your own life, are you most tempted to become bored in your walk with Christ? How can you take steps this week to be refreshed in the Gospel?

[9] If you were to rate your joy, on a scale of 1-10, how would you rate it? What would it look like to see that number get higher?

[10] Take a moment to consider the resources that God has entrusted you with: the spiritual gifts you have, the experiences you’ve had, the wisdom you gleaned. What would it look like for you to be generous in those things this week?

GOING DEEPER:

Read 2 Corinthians 8:16-9:5.

- In what way does this passage encourage you to make changes in your life regarding generosity?
- How would you describe your own giving? Is it full of care, haphazard, inconsistent, non-existent?
- What are some personal steps you can take to grow in this area?
- With an understanding that joy comes from obedience, how would you personally rate your own joy?
- How might meditating on the Gospel this week increase your joy?

For Parents:

- Teach your kids the importance of planning and careful giving. Perhaps share a story with them about how God has proven faithful in your own life.

PLOWS Challenge: *We believe that discipleship is life-long, ongoing and organic. Much of discipleship is based on developing the ongoing habits of a disciple of Christ. Here at Emergence, we aim to commit ourselves to the following disciplines in our walk toward Christ:*

- P** – Praying daily for Gospel opportunity
- L** – Listening to the Word of God
- O** – Openness toward others
- W** – Works of Love
- S** – Sharing your story