


First Love Rekindled

Revelation 2:1-7

Ray Cortese, February 13 & 14, 2015

Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read Revelation 2:1-7. What stood out to you? What did you find interesting and/or important? What was challenging or caused you to have questions?

Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

INTRODUCTION

- 1 Do you remember your first love? What was it like?
- 2 What was your one big/main takeaway from the service? If someone had arrived as everyone was leaving, and they stopped you in the parking lot and asked, "What was the sermon about?" what would you have said?

FIRST LOVE: A RELENTLESS HUSBAND

- 3 Read Isaiah 54:5 and 62:5. How often do you think of God as your husband? Is that a new concept for you?
- 4 *Jesus is reclaiming spousal authority.* How does self-love get in the way of love for God in your life? How do the typical rules for a healthy marriage mirror a healthy relationship with God?

- 5 *Jesus is reclaiming spousal affection.* What are you passionate about? How do you discover what you are passionate about? How passionate are you for Jesus?

FIRST LOVE: A RUNAWAY BRIDE

- 6 *Being a bride is hard.* When suffering and hardship cause your love for God to grow cold, what does that tell you about your understanding of the terms of the relationship? Has this ever happened to you?
- 7 *We maintain other lovers.* What is it that you think about when you daydream? What gets your time, money and affection most easily?

FIRST LOVE: A REVIVED ROMANCE

- 8 *Remember and repent.* What truths must you remember in order to revive your romance with Jesus?
- 9 *Do the deeds you did at first.* What things did you say and/or do when you first fell in love with Jesus? What keeps you from saying and/or doing those same things now?

Step 3: Final Reflections

- † How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?