




Glorification: Faithful

Revelation 2:8-11

Ray Cortese, April 16 & 17, 2016

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 2:8-11. 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 What is the craziest thing you have ever done for someone you love?
- 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?

FAITHFUL: THE CERTAINTY OF SUFFERING

- 3 Read 1 Peter 4:12. Why do you think we are surprised when suffering comes upon us? What are the different reactions that people have to suffering?
- 4 Why might a person's life actually become harder, and not easier, after they become a Christian?

FAITHFUL: THE PURPOSE OF SUFFERING

- 5 *Suffering tests us.* How does suffering reveal our true spiritual condition? What are people really saying when they say, “I tried Christianity and it didn’t work”?
- 6 Job said, “Though he slay me, yet I will serve Him.” In what circumstances of your life could you say this?
- 7 *Suffering strengthens us.* In your own words, how does suffering produce character? Read Hebrews 12:11. What fruit has been produced in your life as a result of suffering?
- 8 What is wrong with the statement, “God will never give you more than you can handle”? How are parents today raising weak/soft children?

FAITHFUL: THE CONSOLATION OF SUFFERING

- 9 *His presence.* What does Jesus’ confrontation of Saul on the Damascus road teach us about suffering?
- 10 *His wisdom.* What kind of gap exists between God and us when it comes to suffering? At one point Ray said, “Don’t waste your suffering.” What does he mean by that?

FAITHFUL: THE MANDATE OF SUFFERING

- 11 Do you agree that it is easier to be a martyr than to live an entire life of self-denial? What does it look like to be faithful unto death in the mundane things of life?
- 12 How is Jesus the ultimate George VIII, the ultimate crazy lover?

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?