

Meditations on the Message

Sunday: February 7, 2016. *Identification & Imitation; Fools for Christ & Role Models of Redemption*

Text: **1 Corinthians 4:8-21**

Re-read the above text and consider the following thoughts and questions:

1. Those who identify with Jesus in this present age are compared to: death row inmates, misfits, and fools. They are poorly treated, marginalized, oppressed, and even persecuted. They are ranked with “scum” and “rubbish.” They are the perfect targets for being bullied.

Why would anyone identify with Jesus when this is the cost?

How is identifying with Jesus in this present world like being a fan in the wrong stadium?

Do you recognize what it means to identify with Jesus, Himself?

2. Paul corrects the Corinthians thinking about himself in the prior paragraphs. Instead of putting him on a pedestal (as they were doing), he instructs them to regard him as a “servant” and a “steward.” (1 Cor. 4:1-2)

As Paul continues addressing the Corinthians he instructs them to imitate him. (1 Cor. 4:16)

What do we learn from this about whom we should select as role-models for our spiritual development?

What do you think about modeling your life after the “Christian” running for office, or the one making tents down in the public market? (Paul was a tent-maker in Corinth.)

3. Both Paul and Timothy were to be role-models to the church in Corinth. (Timothy would remind the Corinthians of Paul’s ways in Christ.)

What are you looking for in a role-model?

How do you feel about calling others to follow you, as Paul did toward the Corinthians?

How does being a part of a culture of Christ-followers (a healthy Church) influence your following Jesus, and being a role-model for others?