

FLYING BLIND

“Dear Church, LOVE AGAIN”

Lessons from the Church of Ephesus

Revelation 2:1-7

Discussion -

- What's the most excited you've been to receive a letter (or email or message of some kind)? Who was it from? Why was it so exciting to you?
- How might our church feel to receive a letter from Jesus? (Just like the seven churches of Revelation 2-3 did)

Encounter - Read God's Word so that He can speak to you—**Revelation 2:1-7**

Explore - God's Word by asking questions of what you saw.

1)

What does Jesus encourage the church of Ephesus about in verses 1-3? What might some of these things have looked like specifically in the life of the church?

2)

In what ways might Jesus affirm you in your efforts to serve Him lately? (Spend some time encouraging each other if people are shy to identify areas deserving of affirmation!)

3) Read verse 4. What problem does Jesus highlight in the Church of Ephesus? What might this have looked like for them?

4) Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3. How does this passage compare with what Jesus says to the Church of Ephesus in Revelation 2:1-7?

5) Do you think it is possible for churches and/or Christians today to “forsake their first love”? What symptoms might we see in churches and/or Christians in danger of doing this?

6) Read Revelation 2:5. What prescription does Jesus provide for the Church of Ephesus? What stands out to you most about this prescription? Why?

7)

In what season of your life have you felt closest to Christ? What were some characteristics of that season that may have contributed to your sense of love for Him during that time? What spiritual disciplines were you practicing?

8)

Is there any need for you to recover some of the things you “did at first” in your spiritual life? How could you do this? Who could help you to do this faithfully?

9)

Read v. 5 again. What is at stake for the Church of Ephesus? What might be at stake in your relationship with Christ if you don't repent of what God calls you to? (Keep in mind Romans 8:38-39)

10)

How can you help to stir up love for Christ in the hearts of others when the church gathers this Sunday?

11)

Read Ephesians 3:14-19. This is Paul's prayer for the Church of Ephesus about one generation (two or three decades) before Jesus addresses the church in Revelation. What do you observe about Paul's prayer? Take some time and pray this prayer for one another!

GOING FURTHER

- Acts 19 records the "first things" the Church of Ephesus did. Read this chapter carefully. What "things" do you see the Church of Ephesus doing? How might these things have helped the church to grow in its love for Christ and one another?
- Songs for meditation: Heart of Worship (Matt Redman), Reckless Love (Bethel)