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Do I Smell Like Jesus?

2 Corinthians 2:14-16

2 CORINTHIANS 2: 14-16 (NIV)

" But thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ's triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere. ¹⁵ For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. ¹⁶ To the one we are an aroma that brings death; to the other, an aroma that brings life. And who is equal to such a task?"

2 CORINTHIANS 2: 14-16 (MSG)

"In the Messiah, in Christ, God leads us from place to place in one perpetual victory parade. Through us, he brings knowledge of Christ. Everywhere we go, people breathe in the exquisite fragrance. Because of Christ, we give off a sweet scent rising to God, which is recognized by those on the way of salvation—an aroma redolent with life. But those on the way to destruction treat us more like the stench from a rotting corpse. This is a terrific responsibility. Is anyone competent to take it on?"

THE SMELL OF JESUS: “a spirit of shared suffering”

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. ⁵ For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. ⁶ If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. ⁷ And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.” ²

Corinthians 1:3-7 (NIV)

“Anybody’s marriage is a harvest of suffering. Romantic lotus-eaters may tell you marriage was designed to be a pleasure-dome for erotic spirits to frolic in self-fulfilling relations. But they play you false. Your marriage vow was a promise to suffer. Yes, to suffer; I will not take it back. You promised to suffer with. It made sense, because the person you married was likely to get hurt along the route, sooner or later, more or less, but hurt. And you promised to hurt with your spouse. A marriage is *a life of shared pain.*”

Dr. Lewis Smedes

“When Steve and Kathy arrived at my home after the accident... questions confused them and answers eluded them. They decided in that moment simply to be present with me in spite of their helplessness and brokenness. Throwing caution to the wind, they walked into the house and embraced me in tears, though they had no idea what to say to comfort me. They chose to make themselves available, vulnerable, and present to my suffering. They became a part of my community of brokenness.”

A Grace Disguised, Sittser

ACTS 9:3-5 (NIV)

“³ As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?’

⁵ ‘Who are you, Lord?’ Saul asked.

⁶ ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,’ he replied.”

2 CORINTHIANS 3:2 (NIV)

“You yourselves are our letter, *written on our hearts*, known and read by everyone.”

ISAIAH 49:16 (NIV)

“See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands.”



THE SMELL OF JESUS:
“truth tempered by tears”

“For I wrote you out of great distress and anguish of heart *and with many tears*, not to grieve you but to let you know *the depth of my love* for you.”

2 Corinthians 2:4 (NIV)

THE SMELL OF JESUS: “living a life of humble servanthood”

“To the one we are an aroma that brings death; to the other, an aroma that brings life. *And who is equal to such a task?*” 2 Corinthians 2:16 (NIV)

“Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God.” 2 Corinthians 3:5

“For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake.” 2

“Someone once asked me what will you do when you are not Mother General anymore? I replied, I am first class at cleaning toilets. It is not what we do, but how much love we put into the doing. If I belong to Christ and at that moment He wants me to be cleaning the toilets, or taking care of the sufferers of leprosy, or talking with the President of the United States, it is all the same; because I am being what God wants me to be, and doing what He wants me to do. I belong to Him.”

Mother Teresa

THE SMELL OF JESUS:

“a passion for reconciling love”

“For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died... All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.” 2 Corinthians 5:14, 18-20