

# PRODIGAL

## CHURCH II

A SERIES IN 2 CORINTHIANS



## PRODIGAL CHURCH (SEASON 2) - THE HEART OF A MAN OF GOD

### Community Group Study Guide 2 Corinthians 8:16-24 – Week of November 14, 2021

#### Introduction

- In this sermon we will meditate on what it means to share what God put in your heart.
- Pastor Jan typically shoots a machine gun of “Biblical truth” from the pulpit, rattling off analysis of many verses, but this week he wants us to meditate on what the Lord has put on his heart and our hearts. True expository preaching and true time in God’s word, shouldn’t just exercise our brains, but it should expose our hearts and lead to transformation in our lives.
- We need to engage on this in order to add “real talk” as a part of our church culture.
- Direct, real talk doesn’t make sense between people unless they know that such talk is coming from a position of love.
- Mosaic was always about this. “Simple” means to get to the heart of the matter and the matters of the heart are what matter. You can’t get to the simplicity of Christianity if you do not know each other’s heart.
- True faith isn’t an ascent to Christianity in the mind, but the result of true belief in the heart.
- Taking things back to the heart is difficult because it forces you to process and recollect all the things that you put off when you only process things in the mind.
- Building off of his approach to date as an expository preacher, Pastor Jan asked the congregation to bear with him as he experiments with the range of his preaching (from the heart). We, in turn, should test the range of speaking sincerely from the heart with other members of the church.

#### Body

- **v16, “Thanks be to God”:** Paul praises God for putting things to do for him (God) into the hearts of men. He offers praise in acknowledgement of the fact that God doesn’t just save people and forgive them of their sins, but also gives them new desires and purpose in life. All saved people will have a new passion for God and his purposes, and be amazed that God chose to save them and use them in his plan. Pastor Jan recollected the astonishment and transformation of heart and purpose that occurred in his life when he was first saved.
- **V16** is about the heart of a man, Titus, so Pastor Jan spoke very directly to men. “I don’t know if you know this, but we have hearts. And ladies, FYI, we have hearts...feelings...a broad range of feelings.” Men should process and feel things, and find healthy ways to do so together (normally through learning from each other shoulder to shoulder, and building stuff together).
- At CG, and church gatherings, we need to share both wins (to share how amazing and powerful God, the Holy Spirit in us, is) and losses with each other. We need to share what’s on our heart through such experiences and not just talk about what is in our mind or appeals to our mind.
- When we share what’s really on our hearts, it expands the range of the kind of people that we can welcome into the church.
- Pastor Jan mentioned that he’s learned that hiding his feelings and heart as a leader (as he did during large parts of the COVID period) only leads him to prevent others from really getting to know him and his love for them. It also contributes to a church culture where others do not share their hearts.
- When we speak of matters and visions of faith with each other, it won’t make sense unless we’re really sharing what is on our hearts.
- **v16, Titus:** Titus became a disciple who took marching orders and went on risky missions because Paul shared his story and the gospel in a way that connected to his heart. Paul spoke and lived in a way such that he would die to tell others about Jesus Christ. Christ, himself, was killed for living and sharing the gospel. We need to live, proclaim the gospel, and exhibit great faith like these men as an expression of the love in our heart.

#### DISCUSSION GOALS

##### Head

To understand the heart of a man of God.

##### Heart

To be tough-minded and tender-hearted as we engage with others in the church and work out our mission/s for the Lord together.

##### Hands

To share what is on our hearts in the church more consistently and honestly in order to help work toward and/or identify our mission/s from the Lord.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Sign up here to volunteer** to help with the preparations, setup and teardown for our **December 4 (at 6pm) Members’ Meeting:** <https://mosaicboston.churchcenter.com/people/forms/300579>.

- Men need to work out their missions from God together, and then seek a woman of God who can serve on mission with them and help them.
- **v17, "on his own accord":** Titus went on this mission because he was earnestly seeking opportunities to be of service for God's kingdom, like an athlete on the sidelines saying, "Put me in! I'm ready."
- **v17, "appeals":** Paul made appeals to other disciples. Pastor Jan will make appeals, not because he wants something for himself or is mad at the congregation, but because he wants the best for us. He wants us to find our purpose in taking responsibility in God's purposes. All appeals will be made from the heart desire to take this city for God and counter the presently dark "Spirit of America" that comes out of this place.
- **v18:** The point is not to be the brother who is famous for preaching the gospel, but to make Christ famous and to glorify him. When God calls you to something, he is going to assemble a team around you. It's not about what position you fill, but finding the right position on the team. No positions are better or more significant than others. We're to be hard workers at whatever we do. This fellow was famous for preaching because he worked hard at doing it well. In this season, Pastor Jan is trying to identify the ways that he can improve in his role. He recognizes that he didn't stir the church much in the past, and ask often enough for others to make hard sacrifices. He wants to do so to bring more healing to souls, the city and the church.
- **v19, "act of grace":** This is talking about being generous with our finances, but also comprehensively in all areas of life.
- **v20-21:** "Honor" does not mean "understand." The definition of "honor" is very cultural and is shown in different ways. Our church is a melting pot, full of constant change and people who show honor in different ways. It, therefore, needs to be stirred up occasionally to adapt and ensure that honor is shown appropriately within our ranks. Pastor Jan, in this sermon, particularly, wants us to know that he is always stirring with love.
- **v22:** We need to have real talk and have hard conversations in order to test each other, which will lead to real faith and real love within the body. We're to be tough-minded, in that we compare things against God's word, and tender-hearted, even to people with whom we disagree. When we engage, we have to be willing to say that we might be wrong when it's revealed that we are not in alignment with the truth. We need to process everything with four-dimensional love, with heart, soul, strength, and mind. When we do this, we begin to process things differently from the way the world leads us.

#### **Conclusion**

- Love letter to spiritual sons.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

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### **Read 2 Corinthians 8:16-24**

1. The title of the sermon is "The heart of a man of God." Pastor Jan posited that we, as Christians, cannot engage in "real talk" unless we know each other's hearts. If your CG has never taken time to hear each other's testimonies, feel free to take (most or all of the) time to spend time in CG to allow those who are willing to do so to share them. If your group has a lot of people, feel free to take time for 1 or 2 testimonies, and build a schedule for others to share in coming weeks/gatherings.
2. In this sermon, along with sharing much about his love for the community and what is on his heart, Pastor Jan talked about the hearts of Paul, Titus, the man famous for his preaching, and the brother who had been tested. Reflecting upon the lives of all of these men, did you learn anything new about the heart of a man of God?
3. What kind of growth or change in your heart are you inspired to pursue by listening the sermon and meditating on this week's text?
4. Why is it important to speak honestly about what is on your heart to others in the church?
5. What elements of "real talk" that were mentioned in the sermon do you think we could incorporate more consistently into our Community Group meetings and gatherings?
6. What is four-dimensional Christian love? How is processing everything with this kind of love in our hearts different than the way that the world tells us to process matters of life?
7. Does anyone in this group have a sense of an inner call to take a big step in faith toward something in their life (toward missions, ministry, a relationship, a new job, career change, a move, a large expenditure, etc.) that they want to share about and process with this group?
8. Is anyone asking any "big questions" that are causing them challenges in their walk in the faith?
9. Men who rarely share at community group, are you inspired to pursue growth in any specific area by the sermon or text?