



## **2 Corinthians 12:11-21, A Missionary's Heart**

- Paul lived life on mission and viewed life through a missional lens.
- Every human interaction, every event, every hardship, every trouble was ordained by God as an opportunity to share the Gospel and to glorify (honor) the Lord.
- **Pastor Jon Courson Principle:** Wherever you are at, it is the best place if you are serving the Lord and walking with Him. That is another way of saying God's will.
- People will not always respond how we hope they will.
- We can't control that, only how we respond. Our response is often our witness. Text shows three responses to challenging people that we encounter:
  1. Some will not respect you: Verses 11-13.
  2. Some will not appreciate you: Verses 14-18.
  3. Some will disappoint you: Verses 19-21.

### **Dealing Biblically with the "Big 3"**

1. Trust God (View each instance as a divine appointment)
2. Embody grace (Let your light so shine... )
3. Share Christ (With your words and response)
4. Testify of God's love

### **Grow Group Questions:**

1. Why do you think the Lord allows hardships in the life of His children?
2. Why do you think that so many of the "difficult" people we encounter are Christians?
3. Read verse 19. Why would Paul say, "*Have you been thinking all along that we were defending ourselves to you?*" How do we apply this idea in our own situation?
4. What are some of the stumbling blocks that could hinder us from responding Biblically to a difficult person?
5. What are some creative ways for an inexperienced believer to confidently share Christ with others?
6. **Challenge (Homework assignment):** Prayerfully examine your relationships with the Lord and with others. Are there any that are broken and in need of repair? Consider taking the first step toward restoration – follow Paul's lead in not seeking vindication before others. Instead, rely on the Holy Spirit to lead and guide you (Zechariah 4:6b: *Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the LORD of hosts.*)