An Example For All The Saints

Hebrews 13:1-8; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 & 1 Corinthians 11:1

I did something "_____" a few weeks ago. The more I think about it the more I'm convinced how "dumb" it was. I'm also glad I did it. In fact, the _____ of this sermon is to get all of you to do lots of "dumb" things too.

But first a definition. "Dumb" is primarily used as an adjective meaning lacking intelligence or good _____. It describes someone showing a lack of thought, _____ sense, or smarts.

These days, "*common sense*" tells us to avoid all commitments. Only do what brings you _____. Institutions are evil. Don't support them. Churches are full of hypocrites. Church politics are down right ugly. So, chairing the Mission and Ministry Committee for our district is pretty "dumb" by the world's _____.

But with the _____ of the Saints and those who brought OA into existence, I just couldn't say no. Why?

"*Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the Word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith*." (Heb 13:7) "*Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ*." (1 Cor 11:1)

The Saints do not ONLY give us a reason to give thanks and encouragement to our faith. They also give us an example to follow. We are called to _____ them. They sure have given us some big _____ to fill.

Jesus is the example *par excellence*. He left _____ for a broken world, sent to people who had rejected his Father, then rejected him. He went to a _____ to die for their sins, as they mocked him for doing so. Those who worshiped him drew mockery as well. "*For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing…*"

Much of what the Saints did seemed dumb or foolish to the _____: insisting on only _____ God; preferring death to worshiping anyone else; _____ everything with "brothers and sisters" from other parents; practiced sexual restraint; risked their health caring for the _____; blessed their enemies. But they did it because they knew the One they trusted. "*...but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*"

Members of this congregation _____ to projects and programs with monthly, weekly, even daily work. They spent a TON of time at church. They didn't spend nearly as much time or _____ on entertainment. They _____ a significant portion of their money towards mission and ministry. They skipped TV and "scrolling" so they could read the _____ and pray, individually, and with their family. They committed to living in accord with God's Word. They did it all even if it seemed "dumb" or foolish to others.

With all these examples to imitate, it sure feels like looking like a fool is a requirement to _____ Christ.

What is the most inspiring act of "foolishness" you have seen a Saint do for the sake of Christ?

What are some "foolish" or "dumb" things God has asked you to do that you've resisted doing?

How is the Holy Spirit using the Saints to inspire you to foolishness for the sake of Christ?

What are you going to DO in response to what Christ and the Saints have already DONE?