SERMON SERIES: Transformation
SERMON TITLE: "Do I Smell Like Jesus?"
TEXT: 2 CORINTIANS 2:14-16

DISCUSSION: Of the five human senses *(taste, touch, sight, smell, hearing)*, the sense of smell is often described as the strongest. Why do you think that it so? Why do you think Paul uses this metaphor?

EXAMINATION: Read through the text. What questions come to mind in light of these verses?

In the message, Pastor Don identifies four ways, we as followers of Jesus, emit the aroma of Christ.

- 2 Corinthians 1:3-7. The fragrance of ***a spirit of shared suffering*** **-** how do we see this in the ministry of the Apostle Paul in Corinth *(see 2 Corinthians 4:7-12)*? Read Acts 9:3-5 and discuss how Jesus identifies with us in our suffering. If you have you been a recipient of this spirit of shared suffering, when someone has entered into your pain with you, would you be willing to share about it?
- 2 Corinthians 2:4. The aroma of ***truth, tempered by our tears*** **–** Why do you think it is so difficult to speak truth in love? Where do you lean? - towards "speaking truth" or "extending grace"? Read Mark 10: 17-29 and make note of this "aroma" in the interaction Jesus has with the Rich Young Ruler.
- 2 Corinthians 4:5. The fragrance of ***humble servanthood*** **–** who comes to mind (either in Scripture, church history, or in our church) who exemplifies this lifestyle? *(See Luke 22: 24-27)* How important is this aroma to Jesus?
- 2 Corinthians 5: 14, 18-20. The aroma of ***a passion for reconciling love*** **–** Read Luke 15 and discuss the key similarities of the three parables Jesus tells about reconciling love. Can you identify someone in your relational circles who you need to intentionally pursue for Jesus?

APPLICATION:

Using the four "odors" identified above, discuss some practical ways your S.S. class (or Bible study group) could increase your "aroma of Christ" through the church or community.

Close by getting in groups of 3 and personally identifying one or two ways that you would like to "smell more like Jesus". Pray for each other.

Quote: "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