

2 Corinthians

Triumphal Processions

Interpreting the Text:

1. The latter part of 2 Corinthians chapter 2 describes following Christ in a “triumphal procession” and uses very evocative language. How is Paul trying to create a sensory experience in this description? What is the benefit of this graphic language?
2. In chapter 3, Paul refers to the people in Corinth as his “letter of recommendation.” What does this tell us about Paul’s relationship with this congregation? Why is this claim important to Paul’s reputation and ministry?
3. Paul invokes a number of Hebrew scriptures to explain God’s covenant with the people. How do these references to Jeremiah and Exodus support his argument? What might the use of these texts tell us about Paul’s audience?

Applying the Text:

1. In what ways do we still use the imagery or practice of a “triumphal procession” in our own worship? Does your church use any of these heightened sensory components that Paul describes in chapter 2? How do they affect your experience of worship?
2. Paul suggests that we are called to be ministers of God, called by the Spirit who has put this mission in our hearts. How does this claim speak to your experience of ministry? Have you felt a sense of calling to something based on the Spirit’s working in your life?