

Awaken The Senses: Fragrance

Genesis 8:20-21, Psalm 51:16-17, 2 Corinthians 2:14-17

Oct. 17, 2021

WARM-UP QUESTIONS:

1. What is your favorite scent and why? Conversely, in your opinion, what is the worst smell?
2. Imagine what it would be like to have all of the other senses but not this one. Why do you think that we were created with the ability to smell?
3. Take a few slow, deep breaths. What do you notice about your body's responses? How is the sense of smell connected to breathing?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. Read through Psalm 51. Why would David encourage us to reconsider our understanding of what is pleasing and acceptable to God? What are some "sacrifices" that we generally think that God would desire from us? What does a broken and contrite spirit look like?
2. Reflect on II Corinthians 2:14-17. What sights, sounds, and smells might be present in this historical event during the Roman Empire?
3. Pastor Jason asks us the pointed question of whether we have the aroma of Christ or Caesar. What is the difference?
4. Paul's analogy of the Roman Triumph is a challenging depiction of Jesus as conqueror and Christians as captives for sacrifice. In the past, how has the Church approached this analogy? What might it look like for the Church today?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. Think of the people and daily environments you interact with. Where is God already displaying fragrance? Even if it's hard to detect, what might the fragrance of God look like?
2. What comes to mind when you think of "sacrifice"? How does our culture react to this idea?
3. Yet sacrifice is frequently referenced in the story of Christianity, but its call or expression might be different for each individual. What does sacrifice typically look like for you? In what areas might God be challenging you to sacrifice?