



Open Heart: Living in Christ With Nothing to Hide
Open to Service
2 Corinthians 4 | November 15th - 21st, 2015

Warm Up: This past weekend's *Serve San Clemente* was an incredible opportunity to serve others in the name of our Lord. What were some highlights from this experience or from some previous serving experience you've had? Where did you see the Lord at work? How did this time change or expand your view of God? How did it change you personally?

On Sunday we looked at our role as followers of Jesus and how the gospel does its work *within* us and then radiates out from our lives.

Read **2 Corinthians 4:1-18** aloud.

- ❖ Reflecting on **v.1-6**, identify as many key concepts of what our lives as ministers of the gospel ought to look like. Share.
- ❖ In **v. 7** Paul describes the believer as a clay jar filled with a wonderful treasure. Why is this imagery so powerful?

George mentioned clay jars were sometimes used to store jewels. If they were cracked, the light from the sun would be reflected off the jewels out through the cracks.

- ❖ Why is our service so much more powerful when we are honest with our weaknesses and brokenness?

In **verses 8-11** we see how we can expect to encounter hard times when we are in Christ's service.

- ❖ In what ways have you encountered hard times while serving? Is there an experience that stands out in your mind as particularly challenging? How did working *in community* help you get through this difficulty?

Wrap Up: Read **verses 16-18** again. Close your time in prayer with these verses in mind. They teach us in part that: 1. We are not to lose heart. 2. We are being renewed day-by-day. 3. Our present difficulties are pretty small in the grand scheme. 4. We can trust in the unseen and eternal. Embrace and pray *into* these truths!