

DAY 9 • AUGUST 13

## Unashamed of the Gospel's Calling

**READ: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:11-21**

<sup>19</sup>... that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup>Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:19,20

**REFLECT**

Ambassadors hold a position of authority and respect. If you are an ambassador, it means you have been chosen to represent the family or organization you are from. Also, you represent your organization as, possibly, the only one your hosts will ever encounter. Being an ambassador for Christ is similar.

***As ambassadors, we are God's representatives.*** To represent God means that we are His face to the world. We may be the closest thing to the gospel that our family members and classmates will experience. Do our words and actions help them know Jesus better? While this may be difficult, we can always ask the Holy Spirit to empower us to think and act like Jesus. We must also remember that as God's representatives, we are under His authority, and must live in a way that represents Him.

***As ambassadors, we are entrusted to carry God's message of reconciliation.*** Ambassadors are sent to another nation to represent the interests of their own country. In the same way, we represent the interests of God wherever we go. Being His ambassadors, we bring God's message of reconciliation to others. This message is the heart of the gospel. We tell others that the only way to be reconciled to God is through Jesus Christ.

***As ambassadors, we are sent to the world.*** Paul's letter says that God is *reconciling the world to Himself*. We were once of the world and separated from God. However, because of Jesus, we are reconciled with God and have become citizens of His kingdom (Philippians 3:20). Even

though we still live in this world, we are no longer of it (John 17:14). We are not meant to isolate ourselves, content with our own salvation. Jesus' sacrifice was for all, not just for a few. This means that everywhere we go is our mission field; every person we meet who doesn't know Jesus is someone we can preach the gospel to. No matter what challenges we face, the gospel will continue to be our hope, enabling us to become God's ambassadors to this world.

## **RESPOND**

1. What does it mean to you to be an ambassador of God? Is there something in your life that needs to change so you can represent God better? What is one thing you can do to address it this week?
2. What mission field has God placed you in? How can you bring God's message of reconciliation to your family members, classmates, friends, and other people around you this week?

## **PRAY**

1. Pray for the Holy Spirit to reveal how you can represent Christ well in your campus and community. Pray for Him to convict you of any thoughts or attitudes that might hinder you from doing this effectively.
2. Pray for the Christian communities and organizations in your campus to be effective ministers of reconciliation. Pray that there would be favor and opportunities from the school's administration to advance the gospel in your campus.
3. Pray for the church to faithfully represent Christ to the nations. Pray that wisdom and sensitivity to the Holy Spirit will be upon the leaders of the church.