



October 15, 2017

Dear Osco Church,

"Jesus has always many who love His heavenly kingdom, but few who bear His cross. He has many who desire consolation, but few who care for trial. He finds many to share His table, but few to take part in His fasting. All desire to be happy with Him; few wish to suffer anything for Him. Many follow Him to the breaking of bread, but few to the drinking of the chalice of His passion. Many revere His miracles; few approach the shame of the Cross. Many love Him as long as they encounter no hardship; many praise and bless Him as long as they receive comfort from Him. But if Jesus hides Himself and leaves them for a while, they fall either into complaints or into deep dejection. Those, on the contrary, who love Him for His own sake and not for any comfort of their own, bless Him in all trial and anguish of heart as well as in the bliss of consolation."

I found this "kick-in-the-pants" challenge from one of my readings this week quite timely. Oh, that Jesus would find me consistent in my attitude and love for Him!

Could I ask you to be in prayer as I travel to China on Wednesday?

I'm super excited to actually be traveling to China considering the rollercoaster of difficulties I had trying to gain access earlier in the year. The incredible blessing and surprise is that when I applied at the Chinese Consulate during my trip to the US last month, I was granted a 10-year, multiple-entry visa. Perhaps God has some unseen things already in the works for us in the coming years.

Praise and Asking Points:

- Pray for a workshop I will be helping to lead on Friday and Saturday. Pray for attentiveness to the Holy Spirit, alertness (mine and the participants') during the teaching times, and for quality discussions.
- Pray for safety and ease of ferry transfer from Hong Kong over to Mainland China. It's currently Typhoon season and even today (Sunday) ferry service to Mainland China has been suspended. There are over-ground route options available but crossing into the country is so much easier by ferry.
- Thank God for this gift of 10-years access into China and for all He might be preparing for us to do in the coming years.

Thinking of and thanking God for you on this rainy and humid Sunday afternoon!

