

### **3 Day Quest**

#### **Ingest**

#### **2 Corinthians 11:1-33 (NLT)**

**<sup>1</sup> I hope you will put up with a little more of my foolishness. Please bear with me. <sup>2</sup> For I am jealous for you with the jealousy of God himself. I promised you as a pure bride to one husband—Christ. <sup>3</sup> But I fear that somehow your pure and undivided devotion to Christ will be corrupted, just as Eve was deceived by the cunning ways of the serpent. <sup>4</sup> You happily put up with whatever anyone tells you, even if they preach a different Jesus than the one we preach, or a different kind of Spirit than the one you received, or a different kind of gospel than the one you believed. <sup>5</sup> But I don't consider myself inferior in any way to these "super apostles" who teach such things. <sup>6</sup> I may be unskilled as a speaker, but I'm not lacking in knowledge. We have made this clear to you in every possible way. <sup>7</sup> Was I wrong when I humbled myself and honored you by preaching God's Good News to you without expecting anything in return? <sup>8</sup> I "robbed" other churches by accepting their contributions so I could serve you at no cost. <sup>9</sup> And when I was with you and didn't have enough to live on, I did not become a financial burden to anyone. For the brothers who came from Macedonia brought me all that I needed. I have never been a burden to you, and I never will be. <sup>10</sup> As surely as the truth of Christ is in me, no one in all of Greece will ever stop me from boasting about this. <sup>11</sup> Why? Because I don't love you? God knows that I do. <sup>12</sup> But I will continue doing what I have always done. This will undercut those who are looking for an opportunity to boast that their work is just like ours. <sup>13</sup> These people are false apostles. They are deceitful workers who disguise themselves as apostles of Christ. <sup>14</sup> But I am not surprised! Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. <sup>15</sup> So it is no wonder that his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. In the end they will get the punishment their wicked deeds deserve. <sup>16</sup> Again I say, don't think that I am a fool to talk like this. But even if you do, listen to me, as you would to a foolish person, while I also boast a little. <sup>17</sup> Such boasting is not from the Lord, but I am acting like a fool. <sup>18</sup> And since others boast about their human achievements, I will, too. <sup>19</sup> After all, you think you are so wise, but you enjoy putting up with fools! <sup>20</sup> You put up with it when someone enslaves you, takes everything you have, takes advantage of you, takes control of everything, and**

slaps you in the face. <sup>21</sup> I'm ashamed to say that we've been too "weak" to do that! But whatever they dare to boast about—I'm talking like a fool again—I dare to boast about it, too. <sup>22</sup> Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I. <sup>23</sup> Are they servants of Christ? I know I sound like a madman, but I have served him far more! I have worked harder, been put in prison more often, been whipped times without number, and faced death again and again. <sup>24</sup> Five different times the Jewish leaders gave me thirty-nine lashes. <sup>25</sup> Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked. Once I spent a whole night and a day adrift at sea. <sup>26</sup> I have traveled on many long journeys. I have faced danger from rivers and from robbers. I have faced danger from my own people, the Jews, as well as from the Gentiles. I have faced danger in the cities, in the deserts, and on the seas. And I have faced danger from men who claim to be believers but are not. <sup>27</sup> I have worked hard and long, enduring many sleepless nights. I have been hungry and thirsty and have often gone without food. I have shivered in the cold, without enough clothing to keep me warm. <sup>28</sup> Then, besides all this, I have the daily burden of my concern for all the churches. <sup>29</sup> Who is weak without my feeling that weakness? Who is led astray, and I do not burn with anger? <sup>30</sup> If I must boast, I would rather boast about the things that show how weak I am. <sup>31</sup> God, the Father of our Lord Jesus, who is worthy of eternal praise, knows I am not lying. <sup>32</sup> When I was in Damascus, the governor under King Aretas kept guards at the city gates to catch me. <sup>33</sup> I had to be lowered in a basket through a window in the city wall to escape from him.

### **Digest**

- 1) Prayerfully reflect on these verses Monday through Wednesday.
- 2) What are some truths that God is showing me through the verses?
- 3) What similarities do you see between verse 3 and verses 14-15?

### **Manifest**

- 1) Apply what you have learned to current life situations.
- 2) If you come to the Wednesday gathering, enjoy the group quest as we consider the verses together and, if God permits, be a part of the discussion.