### 2 Corinthians

## Chapter 11

1I wish that you’d bear with me in my foolishness… But then, you are bearing with me. 2For I’m jealous over you with a Godly zeal, since I personally promised you in marriage as ‘chaste virgins’ to a ‘husband’…  
  
Yes, to stand beside the Anointed One!  
  
3However, I’m afraid that somehow, in the same way that the snake cunningly seduced Eve, your minds might be corrupted away from the simplicity concerning the Anointed One.  
  
4For [I know that] if [someone] should come preaching about a Jesus other than the one whom we preached to you, or if you should receive a spirit other than the one you’ve already received, or if [you should hear] good news other than what you’ve [already] accepted, you’d likely tolerate it too well.  
  
5Now, I don’t think that I’ve done anything to prove myself inferior to your super-fine ‘apostles.’ 6And even if I’m an unskilled speaker, I’m certainly not [inferior] when it comes to knowledge, for I’ve shown this to you in everything and in every way!  
  
7Did I commit some sin by humbling myself so as to make you greater when I gladly preached the good news of God to you free of charge?  
  
8[Oh well, then... I guess] I must have robbed other congregations by accepting their provisions in order to serve you! 9For when I was with you and I needed something, I didn’t make myself a burden to anyone. And then the brothers who came from Macedonia supplied what I needed more than adequately.  
  
Yes, I’ve kept myself from being a burden to you in every way, and I’ll keep on doing so! 10As the truth of Anointed One is in me, nobody will stop me boasting about this in the regions of Achaia.  
  
11Why not? Is it because I don’t love you?  
  
God knows [that I do].  
  
12So what I’m doing is what I’ll continue to do in order to cut off the attacks from those who wish to attack me… Those who want to be proclaimed our equals in this thing they’re bragging about.  
  
13For they’re false apostles… Deceivers who are trying to turn themselves into the Apostles of the Anointed One. 14And this shouldn’t come as [a great] surprise to you, since the Opposer keeps turning himself into a messenger of light.  
  
15Therefore, it should be expected that those who serve him would also turn themselves into servants of righteousness. However, their end will show up what they’re doing.  
  
16Allow me to say this once again:  
  
Don’t let anyone think that I’m foolish!  
  
But even if you should choose to accept me while you believe that I’m foolish, that gives me a bit more reason to boast.  
  
17Now, I’m not saying this to follow the Lord’s example, but foolishly as a braggart… 18Yes, since many [of you] are bragging as humans do, I’ll boast also.  
  
19It seems that you’re just too happy to put up with foolish people, because you’re all so ‘reasonable.’ 20In fact, you obeyIn fact, you obey<sup class="difference">[Syr] anyone who ‘enslaves’ you, or ‘eats’ you, or takes from you, or who elevates himself over you, or [even] slaps you in the face!  
  
21It’s so shameful to say this... It’s like we’re stupid weaklings.It’s so shameful to say this... It’s like we’re stupid weaklings.<sup class="difference">[Syr]  
  
[Well then], whatever other men dare to do, I will do too!  
  
22Are they Hebrews?  
  
Well I’m one too!  
  
Are they IsraElites?  
  
Me too!  
  
Are they a descendant of AbraHam?  
  
Well so am I!  
  
23Are they servants of the Anointed One?  
  
(I reply like a crazy man…) I’m even more so!  
  
For [I’ve] worked harder, been in prison more times, been beaten more that anyone else, and have often been near death!  
  
24Why, five times I received 40 strokes less one from the Judeans, 25I was beaten with rods three times, I was stoned once, I’ve been shipwrecked three times, and I’ve spent a night and a day in the sea!  
  
26In my travels, I’ve often been in danger from rivers, from robbers, from those of [my own] race, and from gentiles. [I’ve been] in danger in cities, in deserts, at sea… And I’ve been in danger from false brothers!  
  
27[Yet through all of this, I’ve continued to] work and labor hard!  
  
I’ve often been sleepless, hungry, thirsty, and starving… And many times [I’ve even been] cold and naked!  
  
28Then in addition to all of these external things, there are the anxieties [that I feel] for the congregations that flood over me each day. 29For who is weak who doesn’t make me ‘weak?’ And who stumbles into a trap who doesn’t set me ‘on fire?’  
  
30So if there has to be bragging, well then – I’ll boast about the things that show how ‘weak’ I am!  
  
31Before the God and Father of the Lord Jesus (the One who is to be praised throughout the ages), [I can swear that] I’m not lying about these things.  
  
32For in Damascus, the governor under King Aretas posted guards around the city to arrest me. 33And as a result, [the brothers] had to lower me on a wicker basket through a window in the [city] wall to help me escape from his hands!