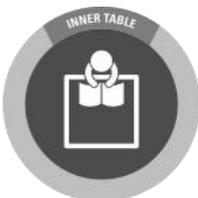


# Sermon Notes

“Protective Captivity”  
June 30, 2019



**First  
Friends**  
Church



*Seeking God*  
in Solitude



*Finding God*  
in Friendship



*Celebrating God*  
in Community



*Reflecting God*  
in Relationships

## Reflection Questions *(please use these individually or in groups)*

### Sermon Questions:

1. Do you “believe” Jesus? Are you “holding to his teaching” and growing as his disciple?
2. Ask God to reveal to you if there are patterns, burdens, or entanglements of sin that you continue to allow to “hinder” your pursuit of his calling.
3. To who/what do you give your highest allegiance? What sorts of things/relationships capture your deepest passion, your fullest energy, your undivided attention, or your greatest devotion?

### Additional Question:

1. Is there a person in your life who might be trying to keep you in some form of “captivity” because it directly benefits them, even though it may be harmful or hindering to you?

## Devotional Reading & Inward Reflection

- **John 8:12-47 | Who does Jesus claim to be? Who is he accused of being? Why do we sometimes resist acknowledging the fullness of who Jesus is?**
- **Heb. 12:1-3 | What struggle or opposition have you been facing lately that tempts you to grow weary or lose heart?**
- **Rom. 6:1-18 | What does it mean to be an “instrument of righteousness” and a “slave to righteousness?”**

## Self-Care Disciplines *(Excerpts from Celebration of Discipline)*

### June Discipline: Steps into Worship | “Presence & Practice” (p. 173)

To worship is to experience Reality, to touch Life. It is to know, to feel, to experience the resurrected Christ in the midst of the gathered community. It is a breaking into the glory of God, or better yet, being invaded by the glory of God. The following are examples of the “fruits” of worship.

Just as worship begins in holy expectancy, it ends in holy obedience. If worship does not propel us into greater obedience, it has not been worship. To stand before the Holy One of eternity is to change. Resentments cannot be held with the same tenacity when we enter into his gracious light. As Jesus says, we need to leave our gift at the altar and go set the matter straight (Matt. 5:23-24). In worship an increased power steals its way into the heart sanctuary, an increased compassion grows in the soul. To worship is to change. And, the holy obedience that comes from worship enables us to join the Lamb’s war against demonic powers everywhere—on the personal level, on the social level, on the institutional level.

Worship is not for the timid or comfortable. We are opening ourselves to the adventurous life of the Spirit.

*Note: Don't let these burden you each week. Please engage only if you feel it would be beneficial in caring for yourself. Sometimes self-care involves giving yourself a break, even from self care disciplines.*