Diving Deeper into Discipleship

January 10, 2021 | Pastor Pete Fowler

Open Invitation: What to Do with the Old and New

Sermon Reflection Questions:

- In what way(s) has following Jesus made your life look different from those around you? How do you respond when contrast or critique makes you uncomfortable?
- Pray that God would soften the hearts of Christians in general, and leaders of the Church in particular, to discern when to move on from old wineskins in order to follow where the Spirit will lead us.
- Are you trying to "reduce" or "contain" something new that God wants to do in/through you in an effort to salvage something old along the way?

Devotional Reading and Reflection

- **2 Samuel 12:1-23** | How does David utilize the practice of fasting in this passage? Is it similar to, or different from, the way you've engaged in fasting?
- **John 3:1-17** | Why do you think Nicodemus has such a hard time embracing the new teaching that Jesus offers? Can you relate to the trouble Nicodemus had?
- **2 Corinthians 5:15-21** | As we come to understand, embrace, and grow in the "newness" we have in Christ (v. 17), what are we then called to do as a result?

Self-Care Discipline

January Discipline: Simplicity

Time (*p.79-80 of Celebration of Discipline*)

- The Christian discipline of simplicity is an inward reality that results in an outward lifestyle. Both the inward and the outward aspects of simplicity are essential. We deceive ourselves if we believe we can possess the inward reality without it having a profound effect on how we live. To attempt to arrange an outward life-style of simplicity without the inward reality leads to deadly legalism. Experiencing the inward reality liberates us outwardly. Speech becomes truthful and honest. The lust for status and position is gone because we no longer need status and position. We cease from showy extravagance not on the grounds of being unable to afford it, but on the grounds of principle. Our goods become available to others.
- Each one of us has 24 hours in every day and we are tempted to fill every last one of them. In our culture, we are addicted to "doing" and afraid of "being." But the truth is, we are not human doers, we are human beings. Consider that 1/3 of your day should be devoted to sleeping which leaves you with 16 hours remaining. What is one thing (or multiple things) you can eliminate from your life that simply takes up too much time? How can you use that time in ways that are more restful and life giving?

Notes