Diving Deeper into Discipleship

March 28, 2021 | Pastor Pete Fowler

On the Altar: The Cross-Shaped Altar

Sermon Reflection Questions:

- Spend some time in prayerful gratitude for what we see in Christ on the altar of the cross: an attitude of sacrifice that is pleasing to God, a commitment to controlled surrender, a sinless offering that reconciles us, a deep trust in the midst of struggle, and a revelation of the power of God.
- As you look upon the scene of the cross, as the criminals near Jesus did, do you have a choice you need to make? Is your life centered on yourself, or on His kingdom?

Devotional Reading and Reflection

- **1 John 1:5-10** | According to this passage, while we trust the blood of Jesus to purify us from our sin, what expectations for us coincide with that trust?
- **1 John 3:16-18** | How does this passage describe a concrete way that we can follow the example of Jesus and "lay down our lives" for others? What other ways can you think of?
- **Psalm 22:1-31** | How many parallels can you find between this Psalm and the crucifixion of Jesus? Why are these connections important?

Self-Care Discipline

March Discipline: Submission | Body of Christ (*Celebration of Discipline, p.123*)

- Submission and service function concurrently. Hence, much of the practical outflow of submission will come in the next month (service). There are, however, seven acts of submission that we should draw attention to. There will be one or two mentioned each week.
- The fifth act of submission is to the believing community, the body of Christ. If there are jobs to be done and tasks to be accomplished, we look at them closely to see if they are God's invitation to the cross-life. We cannot do everything, but we can each do some things. Sometimes these are matters of an organizational nature, but most frequently they are spontaneous opportunities for little tasks of service. At times, calls to service the Church universal may come, and if the ministry is confirmed in our hearts, we can submit to it with assurance and reverence.

Notes