Diving Deeper into Discipleship

July 11, 2021 | Pastor Pete Fowler

Teach Us to Pray: The Daily Needs

Sermon Reflection Questions:

- When you pray, how much of your prayer effort and attention is on requests? Do requests dominate your prayer time?
- How much "storing up" are you doing in your life? Do you think “storing up” hinders your reliance upon, or trust in, God?
- Pray for those in our neighborhoods, and around the world, who struggle with extreme food insecurity. Ask God what we can do to love and serve those who are desperately pleading for daily bread.
- In your current season of life, what daily needs cause anxiety to rise up inside you? Bring those requests to God and pray for His peace.

Devotional Reading and Reflection

- **Exodus 16:1-30** | How would you describe the beginning of Israel’s relationship with manna? Are there any parallels with how we relate to our food today?
- **John 6:25-40** | Shortly after the miraculous mass meal, how does Jesus refer to Himself? What does this teach us about Him?
- **Acts 6:1-7** | What do we learn from this passage about the need for physical hunger to be cared for in the midst of also caring for “prayer and the ministry of the Word.”

Self-Care Discipline

July Discipline: Corporate Guidance

Seeking the Mind of Christ | from *Celebration of Discipline* by Richard Foster, pg 180)

- A personal experience of the Emmanuel presence of Jesus, that He has come to guide His people Himself, leading them in definite and immediate ways, is a deeply profound thing. But, it is not sufficient. Individual guidance must yield to corporate guidance. There must also come a knowledge of the direct, active, immediate leading of the Spirit together. Perhaps the preoccupation with private guidance alone in Western cultures is the product of their emphasis on individualism. The people of God have not always been so.
- Under corporate guidance the early Church faced and resolved its most explosive issue (Acts 15). Some free-lance Christians had begun preaching the necessity of circumcision for all Christians, and Paul saw the danger at once. Appointed elders and apostles gathered together in the power of the Lord to hear the mind of the Spirit. Peter brought his recent individual guidance (from his interaction with Cornelius) to the corporate body and the Spirit of God did a wonderful work. The gathered group came into what must be called a glorious, heaven-sent, unified commitment to reject the cultural captivity of the everlasting Gospel of Jesus Christ. They faced the toughest issue of their day and discerned the Voice from on high.

Notes