

# Diving Deeper into Discipleship for January 9, 2022

Pastor Pete Fowler | *Open Invitation: A Prophet and More*

## Sermon Reflection Questions:

- How do you discern which influential voices to listen to and follow? Is too much of your focus on the “impressive” cultural, external claims of authority?
- Pray that God would raise up prophetic voices in the Church today, and that the Church would have the courage to hear them and not reject them.
- How do Jesus' definitions of "least" and "greatest" compare with yours? Ask the Spirit to teach you about the balance between the humility of having no claim to greatness, and the calling to engage in the great Kingdom work that God is still doing in our world today.

## Devotional Reading and Reflection

- **1 Corinthians 1:18-25** | What does this passage teach us about the difference between “worldly” wisdom and Christ-centered (cross-centered) wisdom?
- **2 Samuel 12:1-13** | How is Nathan’s critique of David similar to John’s critique of Herod? How are the responses of the kings different?
- **Psalms 131:1-3** | What does this short Psalm teach us about the benefits of accepting our humble state compared to God’s greatness?

## Weekly Spiritual Practice

### January Practice: Simplicity | Time

(from *Celebration of Discipline* by Richard Foster, pg. 79-80)

- 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 lifestyle 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 take up too much time? How can you use that time in ways that are more restful and life giving?