

Diving Deeper into Discipleship for February 27, 2022

Pastor Pete Fowler | *Open Invitation: To the Other Side*

Sermon Reflection Questions:

- Are you going through a storm in your life right now, surrounded by uncertainty or even chaos? Cling to the promise of God's presence despite His silence, and cry out into that silence if needed.
- Who is Jesus to you? Celebrate that He is Lord and Master over all things!
- Where is the "other side" toward which God may be calling you? Pray that you might have eyes to perceive if there is a "new thing" springing up in your life, and for the courage to pursue it.

Devotional Reading and Reflection

- **Jonah 1:1-17** | How is the beginning of Jonah's story similar to today's story of the disciples on the sea? How is it different?
- **Acts 1:1-8** | According to this passage, what is one possible distraction from the "sending" Jesus wants to do with his followers?
- **Acts 27:13-26** | What kind of "other side" does Paul know he's heading toward during this storm at sea? What do you think gave him his courage?

Weekly Spiritual Practice

February Practice: Solitude & Silence | Goals (from *Celebration of Discipline* by Richard Foster, pg. 107)

- The disciplines of silence and solitude are interwoven into the DNA of a Christian person. We rely on them like one relies on food or water. Perhaps this is why so many folks feel spiritually malnourished or dehydrated because they are not opening themselves up to silence and solitude. Solitude is not simply the absence of noise but the absence of distraction. Whenever we are able to sit and rest in the presence of God, our eyes are opened in ways that we wouldn't have imagined before.
- This week's self care discipline may be a good one to keep in your back pocket for later. Try making it a point to withdraw 4 times a year for 3-4 hours for the purpose of reorienting your life goals. This can easily be done in one evening. Stay late in your office or do it at home or find a quiet corner of the library. Reevaluate your goals and objectives in life. What do you want to have accomplished one year from now? Ten years from now? Our tendency is to overestimate what we can accomplish in one year and underestimate what we can accomplish in ten. Set realistic goals but be willing to dream, to stretch. In the quiet of those brief hours, listen to the thunder of God's silence.