Diving Deeper into Discipleship

January 3, 2021 | Pastor Pete Fowler

Open Invitation: The Wrong Kind of People

Sermon Reflection Questions:

- Who gets included within the label of the "wrong kinds of people" in our time and place?
- What kinds of "social boundaries" are explicitly, or implicitly, communicated within the Church in America today?
- Do you have any of the "wrong kind of people" in your life—people who feel instinctively that they don't belong "in church?"
- Ask God to improve your spiritual vision, that you can better see all people in the same way that Jesus sees them.

Devotional Reading and Reflection

- **Ezekiel 34:1-12** | How does this passage relate to the story of Levi in Luke 5? Does it relate to our present time in any way?
- **Luke 3:7-14** | While baptism is an outward sign of inward repentance, what is a life of repentance supposed to look like? Why does John give different answers to different people?
- **Psalm 147:3** | Is there anything broken or wounded in your life that needs the healing mercy of Jesus?

Self-Care Discipline

January Discipline: Simplicity

Materialism (*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.
- We have an abundance of things/materials. Many of us love to spend money and acquire new items. Many of us deeply treasure items we already own that add no significant value to our lives. For some reason, we keep adding to our lives with “things” and not removing any of the old stuff. Our lives become cluttered with materials and when that happens, our whole self feels cluttered. This week, think of at least one item you can give away/throw away. As you do it, allow yourself to feel the release of letting go and clearing up space in your life.

Notes