

Diving Deeper into Discipleship

January 24, 2021 | Pastor Pete Fowler

Open Invitation: How to Save a Life

Sermon Reflection Questions:

- Ask God to strengthen you, and your fellow Christians, to live out more evidence for the Lord we proclaim to follow: mercy, justice, compassion, truth and sacrificial love.
- Looking back over the last weeks/months, how do you personally engage in Sabbath-keeping? How do you honor it? Is it a gift, a burden, or neither? What can you do differently that would give you a weekly sense of life-giving restoration?
- In the recent past, what have you been “finding” when you’ve observed the people and events happening around you? Do you think what you’ve been “finding” is affected by what you’ve been “looking for?” Why or why not?

Devotional Reading and Reflection

- **John 14:8-14** | At this point in John’s gospel, the disciples of Jesus are still struggling to understand and believe who he is. How does Jesus encourage them here? Also, what is his expectation of them moving forward in relation to the things he’s already done?
- **Joshua 14:14-24** | What similarities and differences do you see between Jesus asking about choosing good/evil in Luke 6 and how Joshua instructs the Israelite people to “choose this day” in this passage?
- **Deuteronomy 5:12-15** | Why do you think the command about Sabbath was so heavily tied to the event of the Exodus? What significance do you see in the lengthy list of who/what is included in Sabbath rest in v. 14?

Self-Care Discipline

January Discipline: Simplicity | Minimalize with Generosity

(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.
- Develop a habit of giving things away. If you find that you are becoming attached to some possession, consider giving it to someone who needs it. Masses of things that are not needed complicate life. They must be sorted and stored and dusted and restored ad nauseam. Most of us could get rid of half our possessions without any serious sacrifice. We would do well to follow the council of Thoreau: “Simplify, simplify.”