Diving Deeper into Discipleship

March 14, 2021 | Pastor Pete Fowler

On the Altar: A Proper Kind of Altar

Sermon Reflection Questions:

- Do you feel surrounded by some sort of enemy in your life? Ask God to comfort you with the knowledge that "the One Who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world."
- Can you create a pretty big list of reasons why God can't use you? If so, great! You are just the kind of person God uses!
- Are you struggling to trust the presence of God? What kind of "little thing" can you do that will keep you open to God growing your faith?
- Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any competing altars that exist in your life, and pray about what it would look like to tear them down.

Devotional Reading and Reflection

- **Exodus 3:1-22, 4:1-17** | What similarities do you see in the stories of God's calling of Moses and Gideon? Can you identify with the hesitancies of these men?
- **Psalm 55** | What can we learn from this Psalm about the times when we feel surrounded by, or threatened by, an enemy?
- **Acts 17:16-34** | How does Paul react when he finds himself in a culture full of idols competing with the God he knows through Christ? What are the results of his actions? How can we respond similarly today, in a culture that continues growing in its pluralism?

Self-Care Discipline

March Discipline: Submission | Scripture & Family (*Celebration of Discipline, p.122*)

- Submission and service function concurrently. Hence, much of the practical outflow of submission will come in the next month (service). There are, however, seven acts of submission that we should draw attention to. There will be one or two mentioned each week in the month of March.
- The second act of submission is to the Scripture. As we submit ourselves to the Word of God (Jesus), so we submit ourselves to the Word of God (Scripture). We yield ourselves first to hear the Word, second to receive the Word, and third to obey the Word. We look to the Spirit who inspired the Scriptures to interpret and apply them to our condition. The Word of Scripture, animated by the Holy Spirit, lives with us throughout the day.
- The third act of submission is to our family. The dictum for the household should be "Let each of you look not only to his or her own interests, but also to the interests of others" (Phil. 2:4). Freely and graciously the members of the family make allowance for each other. The primary deed of submission is a commitment to listen to the other family members. Its corollary is a willingness to share, which is itself a work of submission.

Notes