

Diving Deeper into Discipleship

April 25, 2021 | Pastor Pete Fowler

Open Invitation: A Good Measure or a Plank Eye

Sermon Reflection Questions:

- Thank God for the foundational truth that we can have confident expectation in His superabundant generosity as we seek to follow these teachings.
- Do you have a "flabby indifference" to the moral, ethical problems around us? Are you growing the strength needed to discern—and respond to—glaring needs for truth and justice?
- What "measure" are you using when it comes to judgment, condemnation, forgiveness, and generosity?
- Do you have a trustworthy companion with whom you can openly examine the specks and planks in each other's lives?

Devotional Reading and Reflection

- **Romans 12:17-19** | Does the promise of God's justice help you refrain from judgment or condemnation? Why or why not?
- **Philippians 1:9-11** | How does an "abounding" or "overflowing" love equip us to "discern what is best?"
- **Proverbs 11:24-25** | Verses like these are often applied to finances, but how do they relate to what we read in Luke 6:37-42?

Self-Care Discipline

April Discipline: True Service | Sensitivity & Community

(*Celebration of Discipline*, p.129)

- If true service is to be understood and practiced, it must be distinguished clearly from "self-righteous service." This month, we will look at several of these differences. Pray that God would allow you to find opportunities for "true service" in your life.
- Self-righteous service is insensitive. It insists on meeting the need even when to do so would be destructive. It demands the opportunity to help. True service can withhold the service as freely as perform it. It can listen with tenderness and patience before acting. It can serve by waiting in silence. "They also serve... those who only stand and wait."
- Self-righteous service fractures community. In the final analysis, once all the religious trappings are removed, it centers in the glorification of the individual. Therefore it puts others into its debt and becomes one of the most subtle and destructive forms of manipulation known. True service builds community. It quietly and unpretentiously goes about caring for the needs of others. It draws, binds, heals, and builds.