Diving Deeper into Discipleship

April 4, 2021 | Pastor Pete Fowler

On the Altar: No More Altars

Sermon Reflection Questions:

- Give thanks to God for the finished work of Jesus, evidenced with the vindication of an empty tomb, a final sacrifice offered for us.
- Are there any ways in which you are struggling to "set aside the old" ways and embrace the new way established by Jesus?
- On the altar of worshipful transformation in your own life, which is the area of biggest challenge: your body, your mind, or your will?

Devotional Reading and Reflection

- **Leviticus 16:1-22** | What connections do you see between the annual sacrifice of the Atonement and the final sacrifice of Jesus?
- **Amos 5:21-24** | What does God's rejection of ritual sacrifices through the prophet Amos teach us? According to this passage, what does God desire more?
- **Matthew 28:1-10, 16-20** | In addition to (as discussed in the sermon) offering ourselves as "living sacrifices" in a worshipful response to the mercy we've received, what does this passage reveal is another responsibility we receive from the resurrected Christ?

Self-Care Discipline

April Discipline: True Service | Effort and Big Deals (*Celebration of Discipline, p.128*)

- 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 comes through human effort. It expends immense amounts of energy calculating and scheming how to render the service. Sociological charts and surveys are devised so we can "help the people." True service comes from a relationship with the Divine Other deep inside. We serve out of whispered promptings, divine urgings. Energy is expended, but it is not the frantic energy of the flesh.
- Self-righteous service is impressed with the "big deal." It is concerned to make impressive gains on ecclesiastical scoreboards. It enjoys serving, especially when the service is titanic. True service finds itself almost impossible to distinguish the small from the large service. Where a difference is noted, the true servant is often drawn to the small service, not out of false modesty, but because he or she genuinely sees it as the more important task. He or she indiscriminately welcomes all opportunities to serve.

Notes