Diving Deeper into Discipleship

May 16, 2021 | Pastor Pete Fowler

Open Invitation: Such Great Faith

Sermon Reflection Questions:

- Ask God to cleanse His people and His churches so that we might be vessels of healing for those around us who are suffering, hurting, or afraid.
- Are you willing to go to "unclean places" in order to speak and act in ways that are healing and helpful? Or do you fear that those places will disrupt your own holiness?
- Are you able to see past the categories and labels that are handed to us by the world and see goodness, and even faith, beyond them?
- Which aspect of the Centurion do you need more of in your own life, his humility or his faith?

Devotional Reading and Reflection

- **Acts 10:1-48** | How is this story in Acts similar to the story of the centurion in Luke 10? In what ways does Peter even expand on what Jesus began?
- **2 Kings 5:1-15** | In what ways is this Old Testament story about a foreign military leader seeking healing in Israel similar to the story of the Centurion? How is it different?
- **Hebrews 11:1-40** | List each instance of “great faith” as either a “big thing” or a “small thing.” What does it teach us that sometimes even small things can be acts of great faith?

Self-Care Discipline

May Discipline:

Essentials for Confession | Avoiding Sin

(*Celebration of Discipline, p.145, 152-153*)

- Confession is a difficult discipline for us, because we all too often view the believing community as a fellowship of saints before we see it as a fellowship of sinners. We feel that everyone else has advanced so far into holiness that we are isolated and alone in our sin. We cannot bear to reveal our failures to others. We imagine that we are the only ones who have not stepped onto the high road to heaven. Therefore, we hide ourselves.
- The third essential is a “determination to avoid sin.” In the discipline of confession we ask God to give us a yearning for holy living, a hatred for unholy living. It is the will to be delivered from sin that we seek from God as we prepare to make confession. We must desire to be ruled by God; or if we do not desire it, to desire to desire it. Such a desire is a gracious gift from God. The seeking of this gift is one of the preliminaries for confessing to a brother or sister.
- If this seems overwhelming, remember the heart of God—He is like a shepherd who will risk anything to find that one lost sheep. We do not have to make God willing to forgive. In fact, it is God who is working to make us willing to seek His forgiveness.

Notes