# **Diving Deeper into Discipleship**

May 23, 2021 | Pastor Pete Fowler

Open Invitation: When God's Heart Breaks

### **Sermon Reflection Questions:**

- How do you respond to the idea of God, in Christ, being heart-broken? Do you see those kinds of gut-wrenching emotions as weak, or healthy? What kinds of things do you think break God's heart in our time?
- Give grateful glory to God for His authority over even the power of death!
- Think about someone you've lost and the joy
  of reconnection that will happen someday
  when God sets all things right. What do we
  learn about God from the fact that Jesus
  wants to "give us back" to each other?
- What does it mean to you that Jesus is celebrated as a prophet and that His life is evidence that "God has come to help His people?"

### **Devotional Reading and Reflection**

- Psalm 25:1-22 | According to this Psalm, what are some advantages to placing our hope and trust in the Lord?
- Matthew 9:35-38 | This is another instance of Jesus feeling a heart-breaking, deep sense of compassion. What encouragement does He give His disciples in this emotional moment?
- 1 Corinthians 15:12-28 | What does this
  passage tell us about the importance of
  understanding that Jesus has authority over
  death through His resurrection?

## **Self-Care Discipline**

### May Discipline:

**Essentials for Confession** | Ending Point (*Celebration of Discipline, p.145, 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.
- One final essential on the preparation of confession; there must be a definite termination point in the self-examination process.
   Otherwise, we can easily fall into a permanent habit of self-condemnation. Confession begins in sorrow, but it ends in joy. There is celebration in the forgiveness of sins because it results in a genuinely changed life.
- As you have contemplated confession over the last several weeks, is there something you need to confess? How can you use these essentials as you work through it? If you missed any of the essentials, they can be found in the past sermon notes on our website from each of the recent sermons.

# Notes