Diving Deeper into Discipleship

June 6, 2021 | Pastor Pete Fowler

Teach Us to Pray: The Need to Learn Prayer

Sermon Reflection Questions:

- Are you willing to honestly examine and evaluate your attitudes and actions related to prayer? Do you want to learn how to pray?
- Do any of Jesus' critiques on prayer hit home with you: prayer as a means to seem/feel holy, or prayer that is comprised of empty phrases or attempts at contractual bargaining?
- In what "direction" are your prayers flowing? Are you prompted by the holiness of God and beauty of His Kingdom, or by finding yourself in the middle of a mess?
- Ask that God would form us, as a community, into the shape of this prayer that we are learning from Jesus.

Devotional Reading and Reflection

- **Proverbs 15:8** | Actions like sacrificial worship and prayer are both good, but what makes a difference in whether or not God is pleased with them?
- **Jeremiah 29:10-14** | This passage suggests that we should continue to pray even when we feel abandoned by God and lost in captivity. Do you think it is easy to pray in seasons like that? Why or why not?
- **Ephesians 6:18** | Do you feel comfortable praying on “all occasions” with “all kinds” of prayers? Why or why not?

Self-Care Discipline

June Discipline: Steps into Worship

Presence & Practice | *Celebration of Discipline by Richard Foster, pg 158, 170)*

- To worship is to experience Reality, to touch Life. It is to know, to feel, to experience the resurrected Christ in the midst of the gathered community. It is a breaking into the glory of God, or better yet, being invaded by the glory of God.
- First, learn to practice the presence of God daily. Really try to follow Paul’s words, “pray without ceasing” (1 Thess. 5:17). Punctuate every moment with inward whisperings of adoration, praise, and thanksgiving. Have personal times of inner worship and confession and Bible study and attentiveness to Christ, your present Teacher. All this will heighten your expectancy in public worship because the gathered experience of worship just becomes a continuation and an intensification of what you have been trying to do all week long.
- Second, have many different experiences of worship. Worship God when you are alone. Have home groups not just for Bible study, but for the very experience of worship itself. Gather little groups of two and three and learn to offer up a sacrifice of praise. Many things can happen in smaller groups that will empower and impact the larger gatherings.

Notes