Diving Deeper into Discipleship

July 25, 2021 | Pastor Pete Fowler

More: Your God is Too Small—Resident Policeman

Sermon Reflection Questions:

- Thank God for those in the rich heritage of our Friends movement, and the larger history of the Church, who have followed a Spirit-driven conscience to make a difference in the world for Christ. Pray that we can follow their example.
- How has your own conscience been affected by upbringing, training, or propaganda?
- Ask God to reveal to you any ways in which your conscience has been dulled, diminished, or defiled.
- Are you seeking to live the "abundant life" that Jesus wants to give His people?

Devotional Reading and Reflection

- **Genesis 42:1-24** | How do you see the concept of conscience playing out in this scene from Joseph's life?
- **2 Samuel 24:1-10** | Why do you think David was “conscience-stricken” about the decision regarding his royal troops?
- **Hebrews 10:19-25** | What does this passage teach us about being cleansed from a guilty conscience?

Self-Care Discipline

July Discipline: Corporate Guidance

"The Community of God" | from *Celebration of Discipline* by Richard Foster, pg 189

- A personal experience of the Emmanuel presence of Jesus, that He has come to guide His people Himself, leading them in definite and immediate ways, is a deeply profound thing. But, it is not sufficient. Individual guidance must yield to corporate guidance. There must also come a knowledge of the direct, active, immediate leading of the Spirit together. Perhaps the preoccupation with private guidance alone in Western cultures is the product of their emphasis on individualism. The people of God have not always been so.
- Dallas Willard states, “The aim of God in history is the creation of an all-inclusive community of loving persons, with Himself included in that community as its prime sustainer and most glorious inhabitant.” Such a community lives under the immediate and total rulership of the Holy Spirit. They are a people blinded to all other loyalties by the splendor of God, a compassionate community embodying the law of love as seen in Jesus Christ. They are tenderly aggressive, meekly powerful, suffering, and overcoming.
- Ask someone close to you about what “loyalties” appear to him/her to be most influential in your life. Do any of these loyalties distract you from the splendor of God and a Spirit-filled community, or lead you away from the law of love?

Notes