Diving Deeper into Discipleship

August 29, 2021 | Pastor Pete Fowler
Faith Like a Child: A Little Fish, A Little Bread,
A Little Faith

Sermon Reflection Questions:

- Ask God to open our eyes, ears and hearts to the needs around us—the ones next door and the ones across the world.
- When you consider the (sometimes overwhelming) commands to "help the weak" and "seek the righteousness of God," are you most likely to respond like Philip, Andrew, or the young boy?
- What small act of obedience can you place in the hands of Jesus today or this week?
- How often do you practice thankfulness as a pathway to see even more of God's abundance around us?

Devotional Reading and Reflection

- Malachi 3:6-12 | What does this prophetic passage teach us about God's desire to abundantly bless his people?
- Proverbs 11:24-25 | How does the wisdom of this passage connect with the story from John 6:1-13? How have you found this wisdom true in your own life?
- Mark 12:41-44 | What can we learn from this observation from Jesus about what appear to be small acts of obedience?

Self-Care Discipline

August Discipline: Celebration

"Celebration Multiplication" | from *The Making of an Ordinary Saint* by Nathan Foster

- The spiritual discipline of celebration leads us into a perpetual jubilee of the Spirit. We are rejoicing in the goodness and the greatness of God. As Saint Augustine said, "The Christian should be an alleluia from head to foot."
- Joy is at the heart of celebration. Indeed, I rather imagine it's the engine that keeps the entire operation going. "The joy of the LORD is your strength," declared Nehemiah. Without joy penetrating all the disciplines, they will quickly deteriorate into another

set of soul-killing legalisms.

Notes

Celebration is not just an attitude but also something that we do. We laugh. We sing. We dance. We play. The psalmist described the joy-filled celebration of the people of God complete with timbrel and dance, with trumpet and lute and harp, with strings and pipe and loud clashing cymbals. In celebration we celebrate! Celebration is one of those things that does not diminish with use. Rather it multiplies. Celebration begets more celebration. Joy begets more joy. Laughter begets more laughter. I have found that times of genuine celebration have the potential of bringing healing and wholeness to the entire community.
