Diving Deeper into Discipleship

September 19, 2021 | Pastor Pete Fowler

A Larger Life in a Wider World

Sermon Reflection Questions:

- Do you have a "good eye?" Do you want to see the world in a deeper way and expand your network of relationships?
- Which barrier to generosity is the most significant for you? Debt? Scarcity and Storage? Confusion between ownership and stewardship?
- Take a moment to assess your current practices of generosity and follow the leading of the Spirit to "decide in your heart what to give."
- As you respond to God's goodness with generosity, ask Him to build "expansion joints" into your life so that you can survive—and even thrive—in the unavoidable changes of life.

Devotional Reading and Reflection

- **Malachi 3:6-12** | Does it surprise you to read about God inviting us to “test” Him? What does this test look like?
- **Acts 5:1-11** | What was the sin that Ananias and Sapphira committed? Why do you think the consequences were so grave in this particular situation?
- **Psalm 41:1–3, Proverbs 21:13** | What do verses like these teach us about having open eyes and ears to the needs of the poor?

Self-Care Discipline

September Discipline: Meditation

“Creation Meditation” (from *Celebration of Discipline* by Richard Foster, p. 31)

- This week’s form of meditation is focused on creation. Now, this is no infantile pantheism, but a majestic monotheism in which the great Creator of the universe shows us something of His glory through His creation. The heavens do indeed declare the glory of God and the firmament does show forth His handiwork (Ps. 19:1). Evelyn Underhill recommends, “begin with that first form of contemplation which the old mystics sometimes called ‘the discovery of God in His creatures.’”
- So give your attention to the created order. Look at the trees, really look at them. Take a flower and allow its beauty and symmetry to sink deep into your mind and heart. Listen to the birds - they are the messengers of God. Watch the little creatures that creep upon the earth. These are humble acts, to be sure, but sometimes God reaches us profoundly in these simple ways if we will quiet ourselves to listen.

Notes