Diving Deeper into Discipleship

September 5, 2021 | Pastor Pete Fowler

More: Your God is Too Small – God in a Box

Sermon Reflection Questions:

- Are you putting God in any boxes? Do you mentally place God within certain limits?
- Ask God to bring unity to the Church.
 Consider how you might be used by God to bridge divides based on denominational boxes, ideological boxes, or others.
- Pick a particular area of society/culture that you think classifies as secular and devoid of God, then pray that the Spirit will awaken hearts within the Church to be salt and light there.
- Pray that, like Philip, you would be ready to hear and obey the voice of the Spirit, even if you might be led into unexpected places.

Devotional Reading and Reflection

- Jonah 3:10-4:11 | How is the conclusion of Jonah's story an example of "box building" from within God's people/leaders?
- Ezekiel 37:1-14 | Do you think a valley of bones was an unexpected place for the Spirit to lead Ezekiel? What resulted from his willingness to listen and follow?
- Acts 16:6-10 | Listening for the leading of the Spirit before acting is one thing, but are you also living in obedience to when the Spirit prevents you from doing/saying something?

Self-Care Discipline

September Discipline: Meditation

"Meditatio Scripturarum," from *Celebration of Discipline* by Richard Foster, pg. 29

 Meditatio Scripturarum, or meditation of Scripture, is the central reference point by which all other forms of meditation are kept in proper perspective. The meditation of Scripture centers on internalizing and personalizing the passage. The living Word becomes a living word addressed to you. This is not a time for technical studies, or analysis, or even the gathering of material to share with others. Set aside all tendencies toward arrogance and with

- a humble heart receive the word addressed to you. It is important to resist the temptation to pass over many passages superficially. Our rushing reflects our internal state, and our internal state is what needs to be transformed.
- Spend time this week with Psalm 23. Read it slowly and deeply. Drink it in. Allow the words to penetrate your heart. What you may find is as little as one word is there to impact you. Read through it as many times or days as you desire this week. But each time you come back to the text, there may be something new for you that God is whispering.

Notes