

Diving Deeper into Discipleship for April 3, 2022

Pastor Pete Fowler | *Dethroning Idols: Pathways of Repentance—Restitution: Heal and Repair*

Sermon Reflection Questions:

- Do you have the passion to be near Jesus that we see in Zacchaeus? Have you welcomed him gladly into your life?
- Do you have any resistance to the idea of restitution? If so, why? Where does that resistance come from?
- Is there someone with whom you need to seek restitution because you did him/her intentional harm? Or accidental, careless harm? Or because of a passive sin of omission?
- Is there someone with whom direct restitution is impossible? Ask God to help you find a creative way to bring something good or beautiful into the world that might have brought joy to the person you've wronged.

Devotional Reading and Reflection

- **Leviticus 6:1-7** | In what ways does this passage teach us to consider how our sins are often both a failure to love God well and love our neighbor well?
- **Ezekiel 33:14-16** | Where in this passage do we see restitution mentioned within the fullness of the “turning” process of repenting?
- **Hebrews 10:19-25** | How does this passage assure us that our acts of restitution (“good deeds”) aren’t the cause of salvation, but a manifestation of a changed heart?

Weekly Spiritual Practice

March Practice: True Service | Effort & Big Deals (from *Celebration of Discipline* by Richard Foster, pg. 128)

- If true service is to be understood and practiced, it must be distinguished clearly from “self-righteous service.” This month, we will look at several of these differences. Pray that God would allow you to find opportunities for “true service” in your life.
- Self-righteous service comes through human effort. It expends immense amounts of energy calculating and scheming how to render the service. Sociological charts and surveys are devised so we can “help the people.” True service comes from a relationship with the divine Other deep inside. We serve out of whispered promptings, divine urgings. Energy is expended but it is not the frantic energy of the flesh.
- Self-righteous service is impressed with the “big deal.” It is concerned with making impressive gains on ecclesiastical scoreboards. It enjoys serving, especially when the service is titanic. True service finds itself almost impossible to distinguish the small from the large service. Where a difference is noted, the true servant is often drawn to the small service, not out of false modesty, but because he or she genuinely sees it as the more important task. He or she indiscriminately welcomes all opportunities to serve.