

Diving Deeper into Discipleship for April 10, 2022

Pastor Pete Fowler | *Dethroning Idols: Pathways of Repentance—Reconciliation: The Death of Hostility*

Sermon Reflection Questions:

- Do you have a tendency to look at people from a "worldly" perspective? Ask God to help you see others through a Christ-centered lens.
- Is your life firmly rooted in the reconciling work accomplished by Jesus on the cross, so that you might desire reconciliation with others instead of needing it?
- Do you feel "compelled" to join in the ministry of reconciliation that we are called to, or do you view it more as an optional add-on to your Christian faith?
- Choose one "macro" area of needed reconciliation in our world today, and pray that God will raise up courageous "ministers" to serve in that area... and be open to how the Holy Spirit might use you!

Devotional Reading and Reflection

- **Genesis 32:1-32, 33:1-11** | Do you think it is significant that, while fearfully hoping for reconciliation with Esau, Jacob ends up wrestling with God? Why or why not?
- **Romans 5:6-11** | How does this passage communicate that we've done nothing to earn or deserve the reconciliation God offers in Christ?
- **James 3:13-18** | What do we learn in this passage about the description and benefits of having a "wise" perspective toward "sowing in peace" instead of an "earthly" one?

Weekly Spiritual Practice

April Practice: True Service | Rewards & Results (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 requires external rewards. It needs to know that people see and appreciate the effort. It seeks human applause. True service rests contented in hiddenness. It does not fear the lights and glare of attention, but it does not seek them either. Since it is living out of a new Center of reference, the divine nod of approval is completely sufficient.
- Self-righteous service is highly concerned about results. It eagerly awaits if the person served will reciprocate in kind. It becomes bitter when the results fall below expectations. True service is free of the need to calculate results. It delights only in the service. It can serve enemies as freely as friends.