

Diving Deeper into Discipleship for June 26, 2022

Pastor Pete Fowler

The Gifts and the Giver: Don't Be Ignorant

Sermon Reflection Questions:

- Do you see some gifts, service or work as more spiritual, more important, or more blessed than others? Ask God to give you a more accurate view of how all our giftedness is needed in the church.
- Invite the Holy Spirit to allow your life, especially through your gifts, to be a manifesto for the presence of God in the church and in the world.
- When you exercise your gifts, do you have any motivations or intentions that are more self-centered than for the common good?
- Are you drinking daily from the "living water" of Jesus so that the Spirit can fill you, sustain you, and overflow from your life?

Devotional Reading and Reflection

- **Luke 21:1-4** | What does the portrait of the widow's offering teach us about how "small" gifts/service might actually look to God?
- **Proverbs 3:27-28** | How does this passage teach us to take advantage of any opportunity to be a "gift" to others?
- **Acts 20:7-12** | How many different gifts do you see used in this story? What are the results of all of them being used together?

Weekly Spiritual Practice

June Practice: Steps into Worship | Presence & Practice

(from *Celebration of Discipline* by Richard Foster, pg. 172-173)

- To worship is to experience Reality, to touch Life. It is to know, to feel, to experience the resurrected Christ in the midst of the gathered community. It is a breaking into the glory of God, or better yet, being invaded by the glory of God. The following are simple steps that can aid in the experience of worship.
- You need to learn to offer a sacrifice of worship. Many times you will not "feel" like worshiping. Perhaps you have had so many disappointing experiences in the past that you think it is hardly worth it. There is such a low sense of the power of God. Few people are adequately prepared. But you need to go anyway. You need to offer a sacrifice of worship. You need to be with the people of God and say, "These are my people. As stiff-necked and hard-hearted and sinful as we may be, together we come to God."
- One log by itself cannot burn for very long, but when many logs are put together, even if they are poor logs, they can make quite a fire. Remember Proverbs 27:17— "iron sharpens iron." Even rather dull lives can help each other if they are willing to try.