

Diving Deeper into Discipleship for August 7, 2022

Pastor Pete Fowler

Wise Words from a Friend: Thorns and Thistles

Sermon Reflection Questions:

- Has your vocation been feeling a little “thorny” lately? Ask God to give you encouragement and perseverance, and the ability to see the value in what He is calling you to do.
- Is there an area of life in which you've been playing around with temptation or disobedience? Invite the Spirit to strengthen you against those attempts at invasion into your soul.
- Give thanks to Jesus for His willingness to lay down His life to bring us freedom from the devastating effects of sin!

Devotional Reading and Reflection

- **Numbers 32:1-27** | Based on the context of this passage, how should we interpret and apply the phrase “be sure that your sin will find you out” for our own lives?
- **Ecclesiastes 12:13-14** | Why, at the conclusion of this book of wisdom, is obedience highlighted with such great importance?
- **Colossians 3:15-17** | What does this passage teach us about how to approach our individual callings and vocations?

Weekly Spiritual Practice

August Practice: Celebration | Singing & Worship

(from *Celebration of Discipline*, by Richard Foster, p. 190, 197)

- Celebration is at the heart of the way of Christ. He entered the world on a high note of jubilation: “I bring you good news of a great joy,” cried the angel, “which shall come to all the people” (Luke 2:10). He left the world bequeathing His joy to the disciples: “These things I have spoken to you that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full” (John 15:11).
- One way to practice celebration is through singing, dancing, and shouting. Because of the goodness of God, the heart breaks forth into psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Worship, praise, adoration flow from the inner chambers. In Psalm 150 we see the celebration of the people of God with trumpet and lute and harp, with timbrel and dance, with strings and pipe and loud clashing cymbals.
- The next time you enter a space of worship, take a moment beforehand to center yourself. Ask God to remind you of the joy that you have because you have received the good news of Jesus!