



Getting Started:

- Talk about a time when a vacation or family outing went bad. Can you laugh about it now?
- What is your favorite thing to do with your family and friends? -OR- What is something you want to start to do?

Going Deeper:

- What is God showing you this week as you read his Word and pray?
- What decisions or life struggles do you need Biblical direction or prayer for?

Message Summary

Psalm 4;1-8

March 14, 2021

This week, we had the privilege of hearing from Pastor Jon, our North Main Campus pastor. We are back in the book of Psalms. Again we see that King David is the writer and it is for the Choirmaster. David is calling out to God for deliverance and help. At first glance, it might seem that David is prideful and demanding when he calls out God. But upon closer examination we see the following in the middle of the three demands: “answer me”, “be gracious to me”, and “hear my prayers”. He humbly acknowledges who God is and his dependency on him. *“David knows that it is God alone who can make him right even in this situation. Then he follows that up acknowledging God and reminding himself of past experiences where God's been that relief he needed.” “In this passage and throughout the book of Psalms we see David respond by turning to God. We see him turn to the God of his righteousness, the God of his salvation. And as hard as it may seem, we need to follow David's example.”*

Continuing, we see David shift his attention from God to those who are causing him distress and trying to undo what God had done. He goes on to point out to everyone how absurd it is for these enemies to believe they have the power to do such things. *"God, the Creator, and Sustainer of all things is the one who saves David and sets him apart. Yet these enemies of David think that their words can undo that in some way."* But David questions them and asks "how long" are they going to stand in opposition to not only him but God. At this, we were challenged to stop and ask ourselves from time to time "How long?" Examples include asking ourselves how long are we going to continue to act this way or set this example for our kids? A simple question with many implications. David follows up the question with confidence not found in himself but in God. This is reinforced by the understanding that the Lord watches over the path of the Godly. David is not backing down and by doing so sends a message of warning to his enemies that they are coming up against God and not him.

There is another warning given to the enemies which was "be angry but do not sin." We learned that there are going to be times when we get angry but we must not let it lead to sin and to us standing in opposition to God. Paul quotes this in Ephesians as he speaks to the church on unity in the body. He is saying there is a new way to live in response to the gospel. Both Paul and David are telling their audiences the same thing. *"Be angry and do not sin"* *"He's asking them to really think about their thoughts, words, actions, and realize what is truly going on before the day is over. David wants them to see where their anger has led them to sin and he wants them to stop."* *"How much better would this world be if everyone simply put David's words into practice, from verses 4-5? Before you respond by saying those hurtful words, before you post that passive-aggressive attack on social media, before you hit send on that message..."* David's real hope is that his enemies would repent as a result of their pondering and in return be obedient to God instead of being an opposition to him. Because David was living for God, he understood that there was a great reward for obedience and he wanted them to experience that reward.

David does acknowledge that there are those who are questioning if God is going to come through. But he is trusting God and asking for his divine favor and blessing. He is asking God to intervene. This same request can be seen in Psalm 80 where the writer pleads, "Turn us to yourself again O God!" But something needs to take place before they would receive any blessings, favor, or be saved by God. They need repentance. The psalm concludes with David speaking about the result of being obedient to God. *"He ends our passage having peace because the Lord makes him dwell in safety. Because the Lord is with him. David knew that the blessing of God's presence was far greater than the material blessings. He knew this so well he was able to lie down and sleep, despite all that his enemies were doing."* *"What has been keeping you up at night? What are the things in life that have been weighing on you and most likely consuming your thoughts? What's keeping you from living with the joy and peace that David has in the midst of his circumstances?"*

DISCUSSION & APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Take a moment to read our sermon text:

Psalm 4:1-8

After briefly reviewing the message summary, use these questions to further examine the sermon and to discuss how these truths apply to daily life, so we can “be doers of the word, and not hearers only” (Jas.1:22). Based on your knowledge of the people in your life group, select the questions that will best help you frame the group’s discussion of this sermon and sermon text.

GENERAL SERMON QUESTIONS

1. What do you think is the key message of these verses? Explain why you think this.
2. After hearing the message and reading the scriptures, what was your biggest takeaway and why?
3. In what ways do these truths, which were written thousands of years ago, apply today?
4. Which point in the sermon spoke to you the most? How did it affect you?
5. In what ways do these passages point to Christ? What can we share with others about him from what we just heard and read?

Read Psalm 4:1-8

1. How do we know that David was not prideful in his demands to God? Why was David in distress?
2. Who does David say is the only one who makes him right? Who is that for you and me and how do we know he is the only way?
3. How does David’s memory of how God has given him relief in the past get him through tough times?
4. In what way was David set apart? What is the intention of the enemy David is addressing?
5. Where does David find his confidence? How does that help us today?

Read Psalm 6:1, Ephesians 4:26

6. Talk about a time when you could or should use the idea of stopping and asking yourself “How long?”
7. What was the caution when it comes to being angry? What can anger do in our relationship with God?
8. What is David’s hope for his enemy? What is your hope for your enemies?

Read Leviticus 26:3-13

9. How does obedience bring hope? In his obedience what did David hope he would see God do?

Read Psalm 80:3, Numbers 6:22-27, Psalm 2:12

10. For repentance to take place what needs to happen first? How can we have peace no matter our circumstances?
11. So what is keeping you up at night? What is consuming your thoughts and weighing you down? Why not turn it over to God?

The Challenge - Life Application

- ☐ Read the passages used in this week's message. Write down any scriptures you need to be reminded of on sticky notes and place them around the house. Try to memorize as many as you can.
- ☐ Reflect on the message and ask God to give you His strength as you follow him.
- ☐ Pray that, as Christ-followers, we would reflect the change God has made in us.
- ☐ Go back and listen or watch the sermon if you missed it or you need to be reminded of its truths.

Weekly Prayer Focus

Pray for Our Church:

- Ask God to use us as instruments for His purpose and glory.
- Pray that we are a GOING church, proclaiming the gospel to the nations.
- Ask God to help each of us to live a life that reflects him.
- Pray for all of our campuses.
- Pray for our pastors and leadership here at Gateway.

Pray for Our City:

- The government and civic leaders
- Those in need in our community and the services that help them
- The fire and police departments
- Schools, students, and teachers

Pray for Our World:

- Pray for the Christ-followers in Sri Lanka, Lebanon, Cuba, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh.
- Pray for all of those who are being persecuted in harm's way for the Kingdom.
- Pray that the message of Christ will reach all of mankind.

Pray for Life Groups at Gateway:

- Pray for those who are leading our groups.
- Pray that everyone involved in our groups would continue to be rooted in the Word and connected to each other.
- Pray for relationships to grow with other Christ-followers and that we will encourage and care for one another.
- Pray for discipleship opportunities.