



Getting Started:

- What was your favorite amusement park ride or rollercoaster as a kid? Why was it your favorite?
- Would you rather ride a rollercoaster or go white water rafting?

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 10:1-18

September 5, 2021

This week, we had the privilege of hearing from Adam Borsay (our Youth Director) as we continued our journey through the book of Psalms. This has been an opportunity for some of our elders, staff, and pastors here at Gateway to fill the pulpit. By doing this, we allow Pastor Josh to not only take a break from preaching, but also help train and equip others to preach and teach the Word. As we opened our time together, we were challenged with a few questions. These are questions many of us ask as we look at all that is going on in our lives. Why does it seem like the world is spinning faster and faster out of control? Why do people complain all the time and seem to be getting angrier and angrier? Why does the salve that once soothed our aching hearts seem less effective?

One answer that was offered was: *"The heart of our problems, the heart of every single one of your problems, is that the truth of God's Word is not the driving mechanism by which you shape your heart, mind, and live your life. Actually, it is much deeper than that. If the truth of the revelation of the character, nature, and instruction of the living God permeated every aspect of your life, not a single stone unturned within your psyche, your problems would still exist because you live in a fallen world marred by sin...BUT...its effect on you and your life and this world would lose its power to destroy and tear you down."* Another truth we were reminded of was that God's Word does not promise we will face fewer times of fear or suffering, but it does promise an end to suffering one day. How we face the troubles of life is vital. *"When we apply the truth and the example that he has laid out for us with clarity, power, and grace we can step forward into that storm."*

As we read the words of Psalm 10, it was revealed that there are three distinct ways we can deal with the real pain and sorrow we face. The first of these is that we need to go to God and be honest. Instead of coming to him with the "I know you got this" mindset, like David, we need to just pour out our hearts in the midst of our pain. *"It is ok to express your hurt and feelings of abandonment!"* *"Don't pretend you are ok if you are not--and let's let people be there!"* Next, we were challenged to actually say what the problem is. David holds nothing back. He shares with great detail all he is facing. It is important to be specific when we share our struggles. *"We struggle with actually getting anywhere because we don't really talk about our problems with any sort of specificity - we struggle getting our problems addressed because we struggle to address our problems."* Sadly this can be the case even in your Life Group. We choose to not share specific prayer requests for some reason or another -OR- we call it an unspoken prayer request. At this, we were challenged to share our problems so others can support us in prayer. *"You decrease your problem quickly when you increase your support system."* The third and final thing we see David do that we need to imitate in those times we face trouble is to give it to God. This process is as simple as: be honest, be clear, and go to God.

We concluded our time by once again answering the question of why people are so angry today and where is Jesus in all of this. The reason so many are angry is because they have forgotten God. The God of the prophecies and promises we see in Isaiah. *"By choosing to not see God as a God who carries our pain, and makes payment for our sin, we are left hopeless. So we rage against a world that we think doesn't care. We take it upon ourselves to fix things we can never fix. In Christ and Christ alone we have a hope that those very real problems you experience, that you CAUSE, are going to be addressed."*

DISCUSSION & APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Take a moment to read our sermon text:

Psalm 10:1-18

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 10:1-18

Questions From Adam:

1. What keeps us from being open and honest with others about the problems/trials we are dealing with?
2. Has there been a time when you finally opened up about a difficult situation with people you trust? How did it make you feel to finally share it?
3. How would your emotions be impacted if you had absolute confidence that God sees what you are facing and that you know that he WILL deal with it?
4. In what ways does the cross address the problems you personally face and that you observe happening in the world around you?
5. Are there any ways in your own spiritual life and relationship with God that you are "faking it until you make it" instead of being honest about where you really are?

Continue The Conversation & Connect as a Group.

1. Talk about suffering in your group. How is suffering different for every person?
2. What storm are you facing where you need to apply the Word to guide your next steps?
3. What verses have helped you in the past with the problems of life? Why are these verses so helpful to you?
4. What of the three things we were challenged to do this week is the hardest for you to do and why?
5. Why do we often lash out when we are hurt or in pain? Why are we as Christians not immune from the hardships and pains of this life?
6. Be honest, have you ever prayed, “God I know you have this in control” hoping he would listen more intently? Why is it better to be completely honest with God?
7. How does a good support system help decrease your problem quicker than without one? As a Life Group, what should we eventually be able to do with those unspoken prayer requests?
8. What does it really mean to give something to God? What are the three steps to achieve this?
9. Why are people so angry today? How does thinking there is no God who cares fuel this emotion?
10. Where can we find hope? Why can we trust Christ the problems and hurts we face?

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.