

Psalm 5

Come to the Lord

There is a delightful joy and beauty in the Psalms. Words come alive! Thoughts are set to verse; beauty and misery are vividly shown- not just discussed. This morning we will be sharing a time of guided devotion through Psalm 5. We won't just read it or hear a sermon though. No, instead we will alternate between our forms of worship together. First, we'll hear a section of the Psalm read aloud with minimal comments from Pastor Darryl. Then, we will each read the devotional packet (in your hands) and answer the questions from the appropriate section. Then, we will stand and sing together - a song that is related to the content of each corresponding devotional point.

The first song is a call to worship: 10,000 Reasons by Matt Redman.

Point 1: We Come to the Lord Humbly (Psalm 5:1-4)

The first thing the Psalmist (David) says is an appeal to God to be heard. What a humble initial step. He doesn't assume that God wants to listen or plans to listen. Rather, he invites God to listen to him.

Question: Do you ask God to be near to you when I come to him? Do you humbly ask to be heard? Or do you presume on God's kindness and make assumptions about your own importance?

Next, David talks of groaning, crying and talking audibly to the Lord. This is not a picture of a tame faith or tame way of relating to God. It's a verbal and vivid picture (imagine what this scene looks like and sounds like!) that illustrate a vibrant relationship with the Lord; one of desperation and dependence.

Note: Groaning is often the sound made by someone who is not articulate. It is the sound of someone who longs to communicate but cannot do so clearly. A comfortable person seldom makes a "cry." No, a cry is made by someone in anguish, longing or desperation.

Question: Do you think of yourself as desperate for and dependent upon God? Answer this for yourself: Apart from food and breath, what are some things that I tend to groan about and yearn for? (For example: food, an end of pain, frustration)

Question: Do I groan for the Lord (for his nearness or righteousness, and not just his help in tough situations)? Yes / No If yes, when was the last time I groaned for the Lord?

Question: Often we don't groan because we don't hunger. We don't hunger because we're already full. Unfortunately, sometimes, we get full with the wrong things. What are some things you attempt to get satisfied with that keep you from hungering for God? (Circle all that apply)

- friends -family -romantic relationships or daydreaming -sex -pornography
- food -media -entertainment -hobbies -drugs -alcohol
- movies -shopping -video games -Pinterest -Facebook
- work -climbing the corporate ladder -studies -school -academic studies
- clubs -sports
- unwillingness to forgive / bitterness / resentment -clinging to a real or imagined offense

Seeing this thing (or things) circled above, ask the Lord to help you have a heart that hungers for him more than these things. Can you give these things to God by faith? Can you Invite God to change your habits and patterns of thinking / behavior so you hunger for Him instead of any other alluring idol?

Song: YEARN by Shane & Shane
(You're invited to stand with us and sing.)

Point 2: We Come to the Lord Trusting in His Righteousness (Psalm 5:4-6, 9-10)

Do you tend to think of God as *The big guy upstairs?* *The Great Big Teddy Bear in the Sky?* God is in heaven and we are on earth. His ways are not our ways. His thoughts are not our thoughts. God is holy (he's very different from us), in only amazing, pure and perfect ways.

The Psalm says that God is so holy that:

- those who boast cannot endure God's presence
- hates evildoers
- destroys liars
- abhors (has extreme hatred for) those who are violent and deceitful

It goes on to say that those who do consistently choose not to live according to truth do not receive the mercy of God. They injure God's people and fight against God's purposes.

God is certainly a loving heavenly Father to those who trust Him. Still, God is zealous for righteousness. He's very demanding about purity and holiness in every person.

Question: Do you tend to think of God as holy & perfect or like a buddy? (Holy & Perfect / Buddy)

Question: How might it benefit you to see God as very righteous and holy?

Question: How does it strike you that God will "destroy those who speak lies?" Does that sound like God is playing games with sin or very serious about the truth?

Question: How can you take steps today to begin to turn from these ways (that God hates) in your own life? How can you turn from *boasting, from doing evil, from lying and deception, from violence?*

Song: Jesus You Are Worthy (& Doxology)
(You're invited to stand with us and sing.)

Point 3: We Come to the Lord Grateful for His Grace (Psalm 5:7-8, 11-12)

The Psalmist made some very heavy statements against those who boast, those who lie, those who are evildoers and violent. Is the Psalmist (David) unaware (of), or arrogantly ignoring his own sin? No! Look at verses 7-8. The Psalmist *gets it*: only through the love and mercy of God will he draw near to God ("enter [God's] house.")

Question: Are you better than the psalmist? Do you require God's steadfast love to draw near to God?

Question: What has God done to show His steadfast love for you?

Question: Consider Ephesians 2:4-9 (God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, **5**even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— **6**and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly

places in Christ Jesus, **7**so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. **8**For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, **9**not a result of works, so that no one may boast.) The work of Jesus on the Cross stands forever as an amazing demonstration of God's steadfast love. Jesus died for you! Have you turned to Christ (away from your sin) to embrace that steadfast love?

Question: Titus 2:12 says that the grace of God leads us to renounce ungodliness. In other words, those who are being saved by God's steadfast love bear marks of this love in our lives. Is the grace of God marking your life by increased rejection of ungodliness and worldly ways? What are the trends? Are there shorter amounts of time that you tend to put up with sin in your life or are you moving away from God - embracing sin and sinfulness for longer periods of time without repentance (godly change)?

Question: The Psalm (5:11) records David's (the shepherd, turned-warrior, turned-king) passionate encouragement and plea. He asks that God continue to care for those who "take refuge in [God]." David also encourages God's people to glorify God through singing. Has singing and worship become a chore for you? One of the best ways to get a renewed vision for life and the worship of God is to remember the fact that we have found a refuge in Jesus Christ. For the Jews, it was refuge from war, hatred and hardship with a promise of eternal peace. For God's people today, we rejoice especially that Christ has come and rescued us from our sin and sinfulness.

SONG: Came to My Rescue by Marty Sampson, Dylan Thomas and Joel Davies