



HUB NOTES | FEBRUARY 25, 2024 | DAVID NEWKIRK

PSALM 5

Give ear to my words, O LORD, consider my meditations. (Psalm 5:1)

When the Lord Jesus taught on prayer, He did not teach the disciples lessons about prayer; He taught them to pray. This is a discussion that needs to go short so that the prayer time can go long.

Have you ever given up on prayer? Have you ever quit praying a particular prayer because you concluded it was useless to ask?

Let them share for a short time. The honest ones will admit to this; others may not. That's okay, just make sure there are no judgmental attacks on either.

1. Read Psalm 5. Read it slowly. Try to simply hear the Word of God by putting your questions and comments out of your mind until the readings are complete.

Sometimes I fear we come to these studies trying to think of something profound to share. Instead, let's teach the people to spend some time just listening to God.

- a. In verses 1-3 David asks God to hear his prayer in the morning. Notice how many ways he asks God to hear and how he approaches God as his King and "my God" or Father. How does this help you in your personal prayer life?

Here are some notes from Sunday:

David cried out to His God—his mighty Fatherly King—in the morning (1-3). David keenly sensed his need for prayer—the first thing he did in the morning was to earnestly petition God's help (a series of five imperatives imploring God to answer).

- **Meditations** can be translated "mutterings or groans"—the inarticulate attempts to vocalize our desires, the silent words spoken with the heart.

- **In the morning, I will direct my voice to you** speaks of making preparations for the exact prayers to be uttered. I will direct or make preparations is a term describing a lawyer's preparation for a case.

- **I will look up** is a declaration of faith: "I will watch for your response."

- b. In verses 5-7 David makes two points: God hates sin, but God's mercy gives him the privilege of coming into His presence. Read these verses, then turn to Hebrews 4:14-16. How are the two related?

Let them offer their own words, but we need to keep in mind that God wants us to avoid sin. A pure life gives our prayers power. Still, we must come humbly! If it weren't for His mercies, there would be no way we could approach Him in prayer.

- c. In verses 8-12 David confidently asks God to guide and protect him. He talks about those who "love His name." What does this mean to us as Christians? (Hint: Read John 15:7-8)

Notes from Sunday:

- David confidently asks God to guide those who "love Your name" so that they will know the joy of answered prayer (v8-12). David's request is direct and pure - lead me in the path of righteousness (v8). David knows God does not guide those who rebel against Him (v9-10). David knows God does answer those who love Him by showering them with blessing, protection, and the joy of answered prayer (v11-12).
- *Love Your name* occurs over one hundred times in the Psalms. Only those who are chosen can know His name (Israel, to whom God revealed His name, YHWH; believers, who believe in His name, Christ, the anointed one sent from God to die for sin); only the chosen who follow demonstrate their love for His name (faithful generations of Israel, disciples of Christ).
- *Shield*, a full-body shield that protected the warrior from every attack. Like a large shield, the Lord surrounds those who love His name with favor.

2. When you are wondering if God is listening to your prayers, what does Psalm 5 encourage you to do?

Pray Often, Humbly, and Expectantly

Spend ten minutes sharing your prayer requests. Pray for one another, pray our strategic prayer requests, pray for our missionaries, then spend some time thanking God and praising Him for Who He is and what He has done.

2024 BREAKTHROUGH PRAYERS:

- Father, move our hearts into prayerful worship.
- Father, please give 50 of us the courage to lead a discipleship group for the first time.
- Father, set the Nyamwezi free from Satan's strongholds and help them embrace the family of God. (Use us to build a Christ-centered reproducing church among an unreached people group - the Nyamwezi - by 2030).
- Father, make our campus a place of beauty, safety and refuge that attracts others to Jesus.
- Father, give us the humble mind of Christ as we seek unity together (Phil 2:3-8).