



Getting Started:

- What is the best prank you have ever pulled? What is the best one you have ever been victim to?
- Talk about a time when you knew a big storm was coming. What did you do to prepare? How scared were you? What did you do to stay safe?

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 7:1-17

May 7, 2021

This week, we had the privilege of hearing from Cody Ohnmeiss (our local Go 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 transition from Psalm 6 to Psalm 7, we see a shift in David from weary and hurting to reflecting on his trust in God. In our time together, we looked at five truths that show us who God is and how he receives glory.

The first truth we looked at is that **the Lord provides refuge**. David is once again running for his life and as he does, he cries out to the Lord. In Psalm 7:1a David says, "O Lord my God, in you do I take refuge." We learned that refuge means to seek shelter or protection. It also means to confide in, have hope in, or place trust in. *"David is saying, God I'm coming to you for protection! God, I'm putting my trust in you!"* He is asking for rescue because he is fearful that his enemies are going to maul him like a lion. David tells God that he knows he is the only one who can save him and the one who provides refuge. We were then challenged with a question. That question was: *When you are faced with trouble and need shelter or protection, what is the first thing you turn to?* Do you try to rely on your own strength or do you turn to family and friends in your time of need? Are you someone who finds comfort in music, TV, or other types of entertainment? Is your first instinct fear and worry and do you allow that to consume you? Or are you someone who does turn to the Lord in prayer and Bible reading? *"The question was, do you turn to God first, or do you turn to things in this world first? If we place our trust in the things of this world, or in other words, if we place our trust in anything other than God & his word, at some point, they will fail us."* God should be the first place we turn for refuge.

The second truth we examined was **the Lord brings judgment**. David is not just asking for his enemies to be struck down but he is asking God to judge him according to righteousness and integrity found in him. This attitude is why the Bible calls David a man after God's own heart. How many of us would be willing to ask God to judge us as David is doing in this psalm? David asks God to judge his enemies and also to judge him. We also see in this that David knew that judgment belonged to the Lord. Even when he had the opportunity to get revenge on an enemy, he chose to surrender to the power of God. We can speculate that the people in his life could have questioned his choices. *"David knew that the Lord would bring judgment both on the wicked and the righteous because judgment belongs to the Lord."* For many of us, when we have an opportunity to get revenge, we take it. It might be a fun prank you pull to get back at someone or maybe it's more serious where you have been truly hurt and you want to hurt them in return. Even though this is what society encourages us to do, we need to remember it is not our job to get even or get revenge.

The third truth tells us why God is a good judge. That truth is **the Lord is righteous**. *"The fact that these things, God's righteousness & his judgment, go hand-in-hand, this means that when God judges, he does so justly. It means that God is honest. He is upright. He is absolute."* When it comes to us, God judges us based on our righteousness. The problem with that is we are not righteous. Paul tells us in the book of Romans that everyone has sinned and fallen short of the glory of God and the penalty for our sin and unrighteousness is death. We were reminded that our only hope as we stand trial and are found guilty is in Jesus. Jesus is our advocate who defends or intercedes for us in the heavenly courtroom. We are welcomed into the Kingdom because God no longer sees our unrighteousness and sin, but he sees the work of the cross.

This leads us to our next truth that **we are to humble ourselves before the Lord**. *“God doesn’t look at those who are in Christ and see their sin and unrighteousness...He sees his Son. In other words, God doesn’t judge us according to our unrighteousness, rather, he judges us according to Jesus’ righteousness.”* At this, we should humble ourselves before the Lord. But we oftentimes find ourselves trying to earn that right standing with God even though Scripture clearly states that we can’t make ourselves righteous. Thus the reason for Christ and why we put our faith in him. The hope is that when we look upon the cross, we would repent. *“For the believer in Christ, their genuine faith in Jesus is accompanied with a heart of repentance leading to a right standing with God. However, the one who doesn’t repent has no faith in Christ.”*

Our final truth is **we should give thanks to the Lord**. David’s final words instruct us to thank the Lord for his righteousness. As we concluded the psalm, we reviewed all of the truths about the Lord that David reflected on. *“In God’s almighty power and love and glory, he provides for us refuge, brings just judgment, and displays his righteousness to all. And with that, may we respond in humility, with thanksgiving and praise.”*

DISCUSSION & APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Take a moment to read our sermon text:

Psalm 7:1-17

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 7:1-17

1. What is David doing as he writes this psalm? What is David seeking from God?
2. What are the five truths we looked at this week? Which of these truths did you need to be reminded of?
3. How did David say he was going to be treated by his enemies if God did not save him?

Read John 16:33

4. How would you define “refuge” after hearing this message?
5. In what ways do some people find refuge in times of trouble? Are those places inherently bad?
6. Where do you turn in times of trouble? Where should we find refuge?

Read 1 Samuel 24:8-15

7. What does David ask God to do to his enemies? What did he ask God to do to him as well?
8. How does this show he was a man after God’s own heart? In what ways do we see that David viewed God as the only one who judges? How is this view different from what we see today?
9. How did you respond to the statement that it is not your job to get revenge or to get even?

Read Romans 3:10-23, 6:23; 1 John 2:1-2

10. In what ways do God’s righteousness and his judgment go hand and hand? What did we learn about ourselves when it comes to righteousness? How do we achieve righteousness?
11. In what ways do we try to sidestep the process and insert ourselves into it? In the picture of the courtroom, how does God see us? What is Christ’s role in the courtroom?
12. Once we see what Christ has done on our behalf, what is the hoped response from us? What does it mean to repent? How will God judge those who don’t repent? What role does repentance play in the life of a Christ-follower?
13. What can we learn from David’s humility before God? How are we to humble ourselves before the Lord?
14. In what ways can we give thanks to the Lord? Is there something you learned this week about the Lord that you are thankful for?

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.