

God's Throne of Grace

Hebrews 4:14-5:10

11-2-14

1. Pastor Jim described Hebrews 4:16 as the command to approach God's throne of grace consistently and confidently in prayer. Read the following passages: 1 Chron. 16:11; Psalm 145:18; Prov. 15:29; and 1 Thess. 5:16. How are these verses encouraging us to continually pray to God? Why do you think prayer is such a consistent theme throughout the entirety of Scripture and why does God desire it?
2. The first truth that should encourage us in prayer is that God's throne is a throne of grace where we receive both mercy and grace. Mercy is not getting the punishment you deserve while grace is getting the blessings that you don't deserve. How does Satan specifically try to derail us in receiving these two things? What things has Satan tried to use against you to prevent you from prayer?
3. Read Hebrews 5:7. The second truth about prayer is that God hears us when we pray like Jesus. The point is to pray from the heart. How does Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matt. 26) pray from the heart and how can we in turn pray from the heart as Jesus did? How does the Lord's Prayer found in Matt. 6, remind us of this?
4. Read Luke 18:1-8. What is the main point of this parable? What strikes you as significant about the judge (Jesus mentions it twice) and how does this make the parable even more impactful? What does this parable tell us about God?
5. Read Hebrews 4:15. The third truth about prayer is that Jesus is our emphatic high priest. What specific things has Jesus suffered to qualify Him as our high priest? How does this bring us comfort in our journeys of faith?
6. Take time to pray with your group. Increased prayer leads to increased intimacy with God. Let that be your motivation as you pray this week. Read Psalm 1:1-3 and 19:14. Each of these Psalms speaks of meditation. Pick a verse from a Psalm this week that you can meditate on in prayer. Use it as a means to commune with God.