



Getting Real with God

Psalms of Summer: A Heart for God

Psalms 56; 59; 142; 51 | July 19th - 25th, 2015

Warm Up: Slowly read **Psalm 103** aloud. Reflect upon all the Lord does for us. Then look at what God *asks of us* (v.1, 2, 18, 21). Allow the Holy Spirit to use these words to guide your opening time of prayer.

- ❖ On Sunday, Seth shared the story of receiving a Christmas card from a family; one side portrayed the perfect family image complete with matching outfits and angelic smiles. The other side was a picture of the same family but in total chaos as they desperately tried to reign in their young children for the picture!
 - Think about your closest relationships (spouse, best friend, kids etc.). How do these deep relationships develop? What goes in to making them *deep*?
 - What kind of relationships are built when we commit to being real and transparent?
 - What side of the “Christmas card” do you most often present to God? Share.

- ❖ Many things prevent us from getting real with God. On Sunday we looked at four common inhibitors: *PRIDE, FEAR, THE PERFORMANCE TRAP* and *LAZINESS/ BUSYNESS*.
 - Can you identify with one or more of these? Why would each of these prevent us from getting real with God? (Briefly discuss each)

- ❖ David was far from perfect, yet his interactions with God were marked by humility and repentance. He knew that his life was an open book before God and, therefore, he could authentically pour out his heart in times of *Fear (Ps 56:4,8,11), Injustice (Ps 59:4-5,16), Disappointment (Ps 142:1-3a,6-7),* and *Repentance (Ps 51:1-4a,16-17)*.
 - Are you more prone to “check-in” or “flyby” prayers, or are you accustomed to bringing *ALL* your concerns before the Lord?
 - What emotions do you tend to hold back from God? Why?
 - Why might you be afraid to let God know what you are really thinking or feeling (as if He didn't know already)?
 - What are the benefits of being an open book; consistently authentic before God?

Wrap Up: Remember: 1) God already knows and accepts you in Christ...despite all He knows about you 2) Refusing to be real only keeps you stuck 3) When you are real, you will see God work. Close your time by reading **Psalm 139** -- this is the God who wants to get real with you! Pray that He will lead you this week into a deeper relationship with Him!