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Seeking God in Prayer, Jer. 29:11-14;

Matt. 7:7-11; 2 Chron. 7:14-16

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Introduction

- Let's say you went for a hike in the Rocky Mountains... but you never left sea level.
 - That would be a disappointing hike! I doubt you'd be interested in going back.
 - We have spent the last several weeks considering what fearless prayer looks like. We've examined Scriptures that challenge our faith and encourage confidence in prayer. This week we are looking at what we ought to seek and desire above and in every request—God himself.
- God is the summit. If you pray without seeking him—and then encountering him—then you will miss the point.

The Qualities of the Seeker

- **Point:** Those who seek God are aware of their neediness, humble and repentant, and wholeheartedly desiring God's face.
 - Let's consider these qualities one by one.
- First, *the seeker is aware of his or her need.*
 - There is a story in the gospels of a woman who suffered for years with disease...
 - She sought out Christ on a shred of faith to be healed.
 - The seeker is aware that he's not right with God and in this he seeks reconciliation. You realize that you are in sin, under judgement, or a wayward child of God who needs to return.
 - Perhaps you have a gaping hole in your soul that needs filling, brokenness that needs healing, guilt and shame that needs forgiveness. Seek the Lord!

- Second, *the seeker approaches in humility and repentance.*
 - 2 Chron. 7:14 makes clear that those who are aware of their need for God go before him in humility and repentance.
 - What is repentance? It says clearly, "...turn from their evil ways."
 - Repentance is not an act to be performed but a turning in the heart and soul *away from sin and towards God.*
 - This will result in outwards actions. In fact, it will comprehensively change your life. Notice it says, "evil ways."
 - Repentance requires turning away from sin and all manners, places, etc. that lead to sin.
- Third, *the seeker wholeheartedly desires God's face.*
 - Jer. 29:13 says the seeker who finds God is the one who seeks with all his heart. What does this mean?
 - It means seeking with an undivided mind (God is your singular aim) and awakened energy.
 - Why is wholeheartedness necessary?
 - A true awareness of our need inspires wholeheartedness.
- **APP:** Three practical applications for seekers.
 - First, go and open your Bible.
 - Second, go and hear the Word preached and sang.
 - Third, go and find godly company.

The Qualities of the Sought

- **Point:** God is welcoming to the seeker and ready to open the door to heaven, forgive his sin, and answer his requests.
 - If you are so aware of your need, then how could you possibly approach God in that state?

- We often feel so unworthy, so dirty, so hopeless, so ashamed that we are afraid of seeking God. We might think it's a fool's errand...
- But look at WHO HE IS! He is a loving, merciful Father who invites us to himself!
 - Children have no shame seeking their parent's attention...
 - The Lord invites you to get his attention.
- Meeting God the Father through Christ results in receiving his name and bearing the privilege of calling him Abba.

End Notes