

Finding Security In An Insecure World
The Blessing of God's No
Psalm 5

Last Week's Message

1. We are called to bring our **requests** to God and wait **expectantly**.
"In the morning, O LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation" Psalm 5:3
2. God **always** answers our prayers with either a "yes" or a "no" or a "wait".
3. God always **blesses us**, no matter how he answers.
"For surely, O LORD, you bless the righteous; you surround them with your favor as with a shield." Psalm 5:12
"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him,¹ who have been called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28

Our Question: How do we **look for** and **find** God's blessing when he has said "no" to our request?

1. God's "no" blesses us by reminding us it is **not about us**.
2. God's "no" blesses us by reminding us that he will use the "no" as a part of his **larger plan**.
 - God might be using his "no" to force us to deal with an area of **sin** in our life.
 - God might be using his "no" to develop a positive **character trait** in us.
 - God might be using his "no" to prepare us for a particular kind of **service** in his kingdom.
 - God might be using his "no" to advance his **broader kingdom**.
3. The blessing of God's "no" calls us to some specific things.
 - We need to prayerfully try to **discern** what God is doing and saying in his "no".
 - Where we **can't see** the plan in God's "no", we need to **trust** him anyway.
 - We need to continue to **serve** and **love** God and others even as we live with his "no".

Study Questions:

1. What would be an example of a time in your life when you brought a specific request to God and it seemed that he said "no" to you?
 - Share the example with the group.
 - How did it make you feel?
 - How did you respond to the "no"?
 - Did you see anything positive come out of the "no"?
2. Read Psalm 5:12 and Romans 8:28
 - Do you agree with the notion that God is always blessing those of us who are his children, even when he is saying no?
 - If God promises to make all things work for good for his children, how does that apply to the "no" he might give to a prayer request?
3. How does God's "no" help us remember it is not about us? Read Isaiah 55:8

4. Look at number 2 on the second part of the outline. Talk about each of the 4 things listed under it as examples of how God's larger plan might use the "no" in your life. Can you come up with an example of each of these?
5. Then, under number 3, talk about the 3 things we need to do as we face and live with the "no" God has given to us. Do you feel like you do these things? How do they help you?
6. What is the most important thing for you to do as a result of this lesson?

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