Closing Prayer

HEBREWS 13:20-25

SERMON RECAP

The writer of Hebrews closes his sermon with a prayer. Through Jesus we have three things:

THE GOD OF PEACE

- The one thing that could ruin us forever has been dealt with forever
- You will never be more forgiven than you are right now

THE GREAT SHEPHERD

- The Good Shepherd laid down His life; the Great Shepherd rose again
- The resurrection is our receipt: the debt is paid in full

THE PURPOSE FOR LIVING

- Jesus did everything so that we can do His will
- Get up, take up your mat, and walk

READ TOGETHER

> *Now may the God of peace, who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus—the great Shepherd of the sheep—through the blood of the everlasting covenant, equip you with everything good to do his will, working in us what is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. - Hebrews 13:20-21*

DISCUSSION

1.) Hebrews ends with a prayer instead of one more point. Who has prayed for you in a way that stuck with you?

1 The God of Peace

> *Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ - Romans 5:1*

2.) Why do we lose our sense of awe about having peace with God?

3.) The only thing that could ruin us forever is unforgiven sin. Why do we tend to fear other things (sickness, money, suffering) more?

4.) “You will never be more forgiven than you are right now.” How does that change the way you come to God after you sin?

2 The Great Shepherd

> *"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 The hired hand, since he is not the shepherd and doesn't own the sheep, leaves them and runs away when he sees a wolf coming. The wolf then snatches and scatters them. 13 This happens because he is a hired hand and doesn't care about the sheep. 14 "I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, 15 just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. I lay down my life for the sheep. - John 10:11-15*

5.) What's the difference between a hired hand and a shepherd? Where have you seen Jesus stay when others ran?

6.) Sheep can't survive without a shepherd. Where are you living more like a "horse" — trying to run free on your own?

7.) Why was the resurrection necessary, not just the cross? What does it mean that the resurrection is our "receipt"?

3 The Purpose for Living

> *After this, a Jewish festival took place, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 2 By the Sheep Gate in Jerusalem there is a pool, called Bethesda[a] in Aramaic, which has five colonnades. 3 Within these lay a large number of the disabled—blind, lame, and paralyzed. 5 One man was there who had been disabled for thirty-eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him lying there and realized he had already been there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to get well?" 7 "Sir," the disabled man answered, "I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, but while I'm coming, someone goes down ahead of me."8 "Get up," Jesus told him, "pick up your mat and walk." 9 Instantly the man got well, picked up his mat, and started to walk.. - John 5:1-9*

8.) Forgiven for what? Saved for what? How would you answer that for your own life?

9.) "Jesus did everything not so that we don't have to do anything, but so that we can do everything He wants us to do." Where have you believed the opposite?

10.) Jesus worked the miracle, but the man had to act on it. What "get up and walk" step is God asking of you right now?

11.) Have you ever said "I can't, You do it" when it was really avoidance? What did that look like?

RESPOND:

12.) Noah built. Abraham left. Moses walked away from Egypt. What's one act of obedience you'll take this week — and who will you tell?

PRAY

Pray Hebrews 13:20-21 over one another. Ask God to equip each person to take their next step of obedience.