



NEAR

2020 has been one of the most challenging and disruptive years that many of us have ever experienced. Countless individuals and families are feeling discouraged, frustrated and down and out. If you're weary and disenchanted, you likely need some specific truths and promises that will help encourage and reorient your current mindset. Through our next message series, NEAR, we will investigate and reflect on God's heart for sinners and sufferers. Don't miss this opportunity to be encouraged as well as to invite your family and friends to experience God's heart for them.

Pastor Jay Haugh

Pursue God

Immersed in Scripture

As we investigate the heart of God, it would be helpful to reflect on who you think God is and how He views you. Each week spend time on your own ruminating over the following questions. Record your thoughts so you can look back at how God is changing and shaping you.

When you think of God what image comes to mind? What words would you use to describe God?

When God thinks of you what does He see? What words would He use to describe you?

How do your answers to 1 and 2 affect your relationship with God?

Pursue Others

Engage One Another & Our Community

God has enlisted His people to love, serve, and reach those who have not yet submitted their lives to Him.

A small group willing to embrace this call takes intentionality. It is in our small groups where we best learn and grow in our faith.

We encourage your group to spend some time allowing people to share what they learned from God's Word in their own personal time. In addition, spend time sharing what God is teaching you through our NEAR series.

Practice His Ways

Adopt the Lifestyle

J. I. Packer offers four measurements to help determine how well we see God. Where would you rate yourself this week on the following scales?

Do you have energy for God and His work?

When you have an accurate view of God, you have energy to get into His Word. When you see people in need, you have energy to move in for God and to pray. Where do you fit on the continuum today?

LOW ENERGY 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 HIGH ENERGY

What are your thoughts about God?

Do you find your mind stimulated as you anticipate thinking about God? What comes to mind when you quiet your mind to pray? How often in your prayer time do you find yourself overwhelmed with God's majesty, glory, righteousness, holiness, or greatness?

LOW THOUGHTS 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 HIGH THOUGHTS

How bold are you?

People with an accurate view of God are bold in their choices and convictions without being controlled by what other people think. Among the early apostles, the greatest evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit had nothing to do with gifts, but rather with boldness.

LOW BOLDNESS 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 HIGH BOLDNESS

Are you content?

An accurate view of God gives peace that surpasses understanding. When you know God is for you, you can encounter difficulties with confidence because the King of the universe with His unlimited resources and who gave up His son dwells in you.

LOW CONTENTMENT 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 HIGH CONTENTMENT

NEAR

Message 1: *His Heart & Actions*

Matthew 11:28-30

Sunday, November 15, 2020

Big Idea: *The heart of God is available and accessible for sinners and sufferers.*

1. In Sunday's message, Jay shared the way he has viewed God and believed God viewed him. Can you relate to those or do you have a different take? What are some of the ways you would describe God and how He sees you?
2. In Matthew 11:29 Jesus said, "Take my yoke upon you." If you have spent time in the church, you have probably heard a sermon on the idea of a yoke before. In your life, how is Jesus' visual description beneficial?
3. What has been the outcome for you in the past when you have taken Jesus' invitation? Jay said, "It's an invitation with a promise." Is there anything currently happening in which you have an expectation of the promise Jesus will give? Ask your group if your expectation is something Jesus intended with His promise.
4. Do you see Jesus in more of an arms-wide-open or a finger-pointing posture? What words or practices would you suggest to someone who wanted to shift their perspective?
5. What is your response to the idea of coming to Jesus with your brokenness, neediness, or burdens? Do you want to embrace that idea, or do you bristle at that idea? What keeps you from believing God longs to meet the needs you have?