

## DRAW NEAR | Why Draw Near to God?

Reece Woodruff

### Introduction

- **Image:** I once had a passing encounter with Tom Hanks at Black Eyed Pea / Since then, I've learned a lot about Tom Hanks, but I don't actually know him intimately. I know him from a distance.
- **Need**
  - **Knowledge About vs. Knowledge Of:** It's easy to know a lot about God but to know very little of God
  - **There Must Be More:** We know at our core that the fullest life is a life of walking with God in daily intimacy with him, but when it comes to cultivating that intimacy, it's another story.
    - Busyness
    - No One's Ever Taught Us
  - **An Invitation Into Intimacy:** This series is an invitation into greater intimacy with God, wherever you are on your spiritual journey. Our main question is: How do we draw near to the God who has already drawn near to us? The psalms are the place to learn how to draw near to the God who has drawn near to us in the context of real life. These aren't monks who have 12 hours to pray each day. These are real people with real lives writing about how to draw near to God in the everyday stuff of life.
- **Subject:** Why Draw Near to God?
- **Text:** Psalm 16 (This is a snapshot of someone who has drawn near to God)
- **Preview:** In his presence, we find three things...

### Body

- Fullness of Joy
  - This Psalm is filled with David bearing witness to the joy that can be found in God's presence
    - Verse 2: You are my highest good (this is a man who had it all)
    - Verse 11: The fullest, longest lasting joy comes from walking with you through life
  - David's walking in this joy because he's decided to draw near to God (5-6)
    - David identifies with the levites
    - Because he has made God his greatest desire (drawn near), he has found contentment
  - Every other god we draw near to besides Yahweh brings sorrow
    - Explain context of verse 4
    - You might not be running after a statue, but you're running towards something (Yahweh or a little "g" god)
    - David Foster Wallace quote

- Little "g" gods bring sorrow because they only take (drink offerings of blood)
  - Why Draw Near? Because there's no greater joy than walking with him. Yahweh is the only God who gives life. All other gods take it.
- Guidance Through Life
  - David blesses the Lord for his guidance through life
  - He's a guide that knows every page of our story from beginning to end
  - Why Draw Near? Because as we do, we become more in tune with the story he's authored bringing an unshakable confidence ("I shall not be shaken")
    - How do you respond when a curve ball comes into your story? Do you panic or do you trust that God is up to something.
    - As we walk with God, we grow into people who are more and more unshaken by twists and turns.
- Freedom from Fear
  - In 9b-10, he's resting in the confidence that God will preserve his physical body from the decay of the grave
  - This is our great fear. Luc Ferry says the motivation behind philosophy is the need to escape the fear of death. He even argues, most of our other fears are rooted here.
  - David, as he has drawn near to God, has escaped that fear.
  - This is very surprising in light of the theology of the Hebrews. How did David find this confidence?
  - (NT Connection - Through Jesus)
  - How did Jesus do it? Jesus choose to leave the refuge of his Father so that you and I could choose to make God our refuge (to draw near)

### ***Conclusion***

- Invitation to Draw Near
- From now till Easter, commit to drawing near to the God who has already drawn near to you.