



## Bethel Sunrise Sermon Notes – “*Enter into the Presence of God*”

**Speaker:** Ps Preston Dobbins

**Series:** Jesus Is Better

**Scripture:** Hebrews 8

### Main Idea

Because Jesus is our better High Priest, the veil has been torn and we have daily access to the presence of God.

Prayer is not simply a religious discipline or a list of requests—it is an invitation into relationship with the Father. The Tabernacle gives us a biblical pattern that helps us intentionally enter His presence each day.

### We Have Access

In the Old Testament, access to God's presence was limited.

Only the high priest could enter the Holy of Holies.

Only once a year.

Only after careful preparation.

But because of Jesus, everything changed.

The veil has been torn.

We no longer approach God through rituals or sacrifices—we come boldly through Christ.

**Jesus didn't simply improve our access to God. He removed every barrier.**

### Don't Waste the Invitation

Many believers know they have access to God, yet rarely enjoy His presence.

Life gets busy.

Schedules get full.

Distractions multiply.

But the greatest invitation we have each day is to spend time with the One who loves us most.

Prayer isn't about checking a spiritual box.

It's about knowing God.

# A Pattern for Prayer

The Tabernacle wasn't the destination.

Jesus is.

But the Tabernacle provides a practical pathway that helps us intentionally draw near to God.

## The Gate

### Thanksgiving & Praise

"Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise."

Begin with gratitude.

Before you pray about what's wrong, remember what God has already done.

Thank Him.

Praise Him for who He is.

Gratitude changes your perspective before your circumstances ever change.

## The Altar

### Remember Your Salvation

If you ever struggle to find something to thank God for, remember the cross.

Remember who you were before Jesus found you.

Remember His mercy.

Remember His grace.

Never lose the wonder of your salvation.

Healthy Christians never get over being saved.

## The Laver

### Confession

The laver was the place of washing.

Bring your failures into God's light.

Confession isn't about earning forgiveness.

It's about restoring fellowship.

God already knows your struggles.

He simply wants you to bring them to Him.

We also need trusted believers in our lives with whom we can honestly confess, pray, and grow together.

Healing happens in the light.

## **The Table of Showbread**

### **Feed on God's Word**

The Word of God feeds our souls.

It reminds us:

- **Who God is.**
- **Who we are.**
- **What He has promised.**

Whether you read Scripture, listen to it while driving, or meditate on a passage throughout the day, make God's Word part of your daily life.

Prayer and Scripture were never meant to be separated.

## **The Golden Lampstand**

### **Depend on the Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit searches our hearts and illuminates areas where we need to grow.

Isaiah 11:2 describes the sevenfold ministry of the Spirit.

Pray daily for:

- **Wisdom**
- **Understanding**
- **Counsel**
- **Might**
- **Knowledge**
- **The fear of the Lord**

We cannot live the Christian life in our own strength.

The Holy Spirit empowers us to become more like Jesus.

## **The Altar of Incense**

### **Present Your Requests**

Only after walking through thanksgiving, salvation, confession, Scripture, and dependence on the Spirit do we bring our requests before God.

This teaches us to seek God's Kingdom before our own needs.

By the time we reach this point, our hearts have been aligned with His.

Our confidence has grown.

Our faith has been strengthened.

## **Stop Making Excuses**

Most of us already make sacrifices for the things we value.

We wake up early for work.

We make time for hobbies.

We schedule what matters.

Our prayer life often isn't a matter of ability.

It's a matter of priority.

God is inviting us beyond spiritual complacency into genuine relationship.

## **Jesus Invites Us Into His Presence**

Prayer isn't meant to be rushed.

It isn't meant to be dry.

It isn't reserved for pastors or spiritual leaders.

It is an invitation extended to every believer.

Because of Jesus, we have the privilege of entering God's presence every single day.

Let's not neglect what generations before us longed to experience.

## **Final Challenge**

This week, choose a specific time each day to meet with God.

Use the Tabernacle Prayer Pattern as a guide—not as a formula, but as a way to intentionally slow down and draw near to Him.

Don't simply pray through the pattern.

Let it lead you into His presence.

## **Discussion Questions**

1. Ps Preston said that many believers struggle with consistency in prayer. What do you think are the biggest obstacles that keep people from regularly spending time with God?
2. Which part of the Tabernacle Prayer Pattern stood out to you the most, and why do you think God may be inviting you to grow in that area?
3. Why is it important to begin prayer with thanksgiving and praise instead of immediately focusing on our needs?

4. The laver represents confession and bringing our struggles into the light. Why do you think honesty with God—and with trusted believers—is so important for spiritual growth?
5. Ps Preston challenged us to stop making excuses and intentionally prioritize God's presence. What is one practical change you can make this week to create consistent time with God?