



6/10/24

Favorite statement of the message yesterday... This is my prayer... that "people would be better off for having been with me." And that will happen as I reflect the love of Jesus. I pray that the Lord will do that in my life...even if Tim never moves his shoes from the back door. Hahaha.

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Psalm 15 ~

Vs. 1 ~ David starts by asking the questions, "O LORD, who shall sojourn in Your tent? Who shall dwell on Your holy hill?" O LORD...Yahweh...personal God...

Who shall sojourn in Your tent? Who has the right to take some time to be near You in Your temporary dwelling place?

Who shall dwell on Your holy hill? Who shall settle down and stay in Your place that is set apart and sacred?

Who is worthy to be near God? In a very real sense, David's next words could have been... "No one." No one is worthy. But because of Jesus, it IS possible to "put off the old self with its sinful passions and desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of our minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness" (Ephesians 4:22-24). The Holy Spirit transforms us by the renewal of our minds (Romans 12:2). God calls us to abide in Him, and while we do, the Holy Spirit changes us so that we no longer live for our selfish passions, but for Him. What will we look like when we're allowing the Lord to work in our hearts, when we're cooperating with Him? ~

Vs. 2 ~ We will "walk blamelessly and do what is right." How do we do that? By walking by the Spirit...walking in the steps of Jesus. We walk where He walks and we do what He does.

By "speaking truth in our hearts." We speak the truth. We don't listen to lies and we don't repeat lies. That means that we speak truth to our hearts...not things like, "I'm such a loser. I'll never get it right." Or, "I'm so awesome. I deserve for everyone to give me special recognition. How dare they if they don't!" It means that we speak the truth FROM OUR HEARTS to others. We don't fake it. We let the Holy Spirit change us from the inside out so that kindness comes out.

Vs. 3 ~ By "not slandering with our tongue." Not backbiting. Not gossiping. But instead, speaking what builds others up and gives grace that fits the occasion (Ephesians 4:29).

By "doing no evil to my neighbor." Let everything I do be done in love (1 Corinthians 16:14). Let everything I do be FOR our relationship...not letting the bricks of bitterness built up as a wall between us.

By "not taking up a reproach against a friend." I don't speak evil of my friend. I'm not much of a friend if I do. Why would I speak badly about a friend? I feel stepped on, or I feel like I need to prove that I'm superior, or I feel afraid that they're going to hurt me so I defend myself before anything has even happened... Whatever the reason, to speak against my friend is not aligned with the heart of God. If I'm abiding in Him, it will show in how I treat others.

Vs. 4 ~ If I'm abiding in the Lord, my loyalty will be to Him over anyone else. A "vile person is despised." David said in Psalm 139:21, "Do I not hate those who hate You, O Lord?" To abide with the Lord I can't celebrate someone who stands against Him.

I "honor those who fear the Lord," who worship Him. I "flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace along with THOSE WHO CALL ON THE LORD FROM A PURE HEART." The ones I lean on in friendship are those who, like me, seek the Lord. I have to be careful who I get close to as friends. It's easier for someone to pull someone down than it is to help someone rise up. I need to be close to those who will help lift me up in my faith, and I need to do the same for them.

I "swear to my own hurt and I don't change." That means that I make a commitment and keep it. I stand on what's true even if what's true is going to hurt my position with people. If I've said I'm going to do something and then get invited to do something that sounds better, don't drop the first thing.

Vs. 5 ~ I don't take advantage of people and I don't let someone else use me in order to hurt someone else who did nothing wrong. That means that I can't be doing things selfishly, to serve myself.

If I do all the things that align with the person who abides in the Lord...as I DWELL WITH HIM...I will not be moved. To take a stand for everything God stands for, and hold to that decision, I will never be moved to dwell anywhere else. Where else would I rather be than to be in the presence of the Lord?

Let me never forget that everything described in this passage, all the integrity, was all done perfectly by Jesus my Savior. "He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in His mouth" (1 Peter 2:23a). He IS the truth (John 14:6)! "He did not revile when He was reviled and He did not threaten when He suffered, but continued entrusting Himself to Him who judges justly" (1 Peter 2:23b). He not only didn't slander us or take up a reproach against us, but He laid down His life for us. He honors those who fear the Lord by giving us the gift of His righteousness (Romans 5:17). He swore to His own hurt...to the point of death on a cross. He didn't take a bribe or demand payment from us..but instead, He "canceled the record of debt that stood against us; this He set aside, nailing it to the cross" (Colossians 3:14). And He will never be moved. His throne is established in the heavens for all eternity, and His kingdom rules over all (Psalm 103:18-19).

He who has done all that wants to abide in me and with me, and help me to become that same person...with that same integrity. "He who calls me is faithful, and He will surely do it" (1 Thessalonians 5:24). O Lord, please help me to abide in You with all I am. I pray that if I were ever put on trial for being a follower of Jesus Christ, this passage would be the evidence that would be found to convict me.