

Meditations on Psalms 15

A PSALM OF DAVID. O LORD, who shall sojourn in your tent? Who shall dwell on your holy hill?² He who walks blamelessly and does what is right and speaks truth in his heart;³ who does not slander with his tongue and does no evil to his neighbor, nor takes up a reproach against his friend;⁴ in whose eyes a vile person is despised, but who honors those who fear the LORD; who swears to his own hurt and does not change;⁵ who does not put out his money at interest and does not take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things shall never be moved.

It's a sobering reality when you finally realize the holiness of God pitted against your own depravity. Like that moment when you realize that even on your best day you fall horribly short of perfection. Isaiah 64:6 says that all of our righteousness (or what we think is righteous) are as filthy rags. It's a horrible and hopefully, humbling moment.

David asks a hard question, "Who in the world can approach God? And not just go to him, but dwell with him? Who can be saved?" It's the question of life right? The rich young man in Matthew 19:16 asks Jesus, "Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?" Same thing in Acts 16:30, the jailer goes "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" It's the ultimate question of the heart...when we're finally desperate and we take the focus off of our lives and face the reality of life. You're going to have to ask this of yourself sooner or later. And please be serious about this...what must you do to be saved? You can't neglect this question because there will be a day of judgment and you yourself will be held accountable for how you answer this question.

The response is shocking though. We all have a sense of gusto somewhere inside of us. We want to DO something so that we might feel like we can accomplish our own salvation. Certainly there's something I must do right? Go to church more? Not cuss as much? Do my quiet times? The Bible sees where you're going with all of this and because you want a list of things to do...it gives it to you:

1. Live life honestly, always do what is right, and have the right motives when you do it. Make sure every action that is done both physically and emotionally is pure and never selfish.
2. Protect the welfare and reputation of others by promoting their holiness. Always encourage people around you, never gossip or make fun of them for any reason. If you see that they are in physical, emotional, spiritual need...be sure to go meet their need. Not only meet their needs when they need it, but also it is your job to be proactive in ministering to them.
3. Seek justice always and never consider personal gain. Don't turn a blind eye to injustice but be the one that stands up for others, not just at home but all across the world.

And here's the punch line: "He who does these things shall never be moved." This is all good and all but I can't do this! You can't do this! When have you went through a day and accomplished everything on this list? So we go back to the first question, "Who can journey to the house of God? Who can find salvation?" The answer – nobody! It is impossible! You cannot walk blamelessly and always do what is right. You cannot speak truth in your heart. You are selfish and prideful and in the end...hopeless. So why is this good news? Because it doesn't matter how good, bad, smart, sinful, dysfunctional you

are...and if this list is meant to show us something, it's that we can't ever earn the favor of God on our own...BUT Jesus can and has for you and I. And by his life and through his death He has become our covering, our sacrifice...our salvation. So our hope is placed on Jesus because "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). "And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son" (1 John 5:11).