

1 John 3:17-18 *If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and truth.*

The Real Road Less Traveled

Psalm 15

7/12/26

Matthew 7:13-14 *Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.*

Matthew 5:48 *Be perfect, therefore, as our heavenly Father is perfect.*

Psalm 15: ¹ Lord, who may dwell in your sanctuary? Who may live on your holy hill? ² He whose walk is blameless and who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from his heart ³ and has no slander on his tongue, who does his neighbor no wrong and casts no slur on his fellowman, ⁴ who despises a vile man but honors those who fear the LORD, who keeps his oath even when it hurts, ⁵ who lends his money without usury and does not accept a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things will never be shaken.

I. The Most Important Question.

Psalm 15:1 *“Lord, who may dwell in your sanctuary? Who may live on your holy hill?”*

Romans 10:9-10 *That if you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord.’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.*

A. Are my words helpful or hurtful?

Psalm 15:2-3 *“He whose walk is blameless and who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from his heart and has no slander on his tongue, who does his neighbor no wrong and casts no slur on his fellowman.”*

James 1:26 *If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless.*

1. There’s a time and place for negative and harsh words.

2 Timothy 4:14-15 Alexander the metalworker did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will repay him for what he has done. You too should be on your guard against him, because he strongly opposed our message.

Mark 12:38-40 Watch out for the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and be greeted in the marketplaces, and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. They devour widows' houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. Such men will be punished most severely.

Galatians 2:11-14 When Peter came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he was clearly in the wrong. Before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. The other Jews joined with him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray. When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter in front of them all, 'You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?'

2. Before you pass on a negative report, reconsider.

Proverbs 10:12 Hatred stirs up dissension, but love covers over all wrongs.

Proverbs 16:28 A perverse man stirs up dissension, and a gossip separates close friends.

B. Are my heroes Godly or godless?

Psalm 15:4a "Who despises a vile man but honors those who fear the Lord."

Psalm 101:3 I will set before my eyes no vile thing. The deeds of faithless men I hate; they will not cling to me.

C. Do I keep my commitments?

Psalm 15:4b "Who keeps his oath even when it hurts."

Matthew 5:37 Simply let your 'Yes' be "Yes," and your 'No,' 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.

Malachi 3:6 I the LORD do not change.

D. Do I help the helpless?

Psalm 15:5a "Who lends his money without usury and does not accept a bribe against the innocent."

Deuteronomy 23:19-20 Do not charge your brother interest, whether on money or food or anything else that may earn interest. You may charge a foreigner interest, but not a brother Israelite, so that the Lord your God may bless you in everything you put your hand to in the land you are entering to possess.

II. The conclusion.

Psalm 15:5b "He who does these things will never be shaken."

Psalm 16:8 I have set the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

Psalm 62:2 He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken.

How can we apply this lesson today?

A. We need to examine/test ourselves.

2 Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you - unless, of course, you fail the test?

B. Do you have a tongue problem?

James 3:6, 9-10 The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be.

C. Are you a man or woman of your word?

James 5:12 Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear - not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Let your 'Yes' be yes, and your 'No,' no, or you will be condemned.

D. Do you eagerly help those in need?