

Finding That Special Someone – Ps 15

Want to talk about something that just about every person experiences in their life –

Finding that special someone

It's a process that's ruled by physical attraction – for the guy

And emotional heart strings – for the girl

Most often, we end up in one relationship after another without giving any of them much thought; or at least the right kind of thought . . .

The result is an agonizing, confusing time at best; or a painful breakup at worst

I'm not minimizing physical attraction or emotional links in a relationship

What I want you to see this morning, is that if you put those things first, and consider nothing else, you're going to end up with a mess

Success in finding that special someone starts with a patient trust in God, and a firm grasp on the qualities to look

That's where **Ps 15**, our text for the morning comes in

V1 starts with a question, stated 2 different ways, that sets up the answers in rest of the Ps

The questions indicate a desire to know who God's people are

As it relates to a potential spouse, that too should be your first question

Lord, who's with you? (Dwells on your holy hill?)

Lord, who does life with you? (Sojourns in your tent?)

Who lives under your umbrella of protection and provision?

On this side of the cross, the question might be phrased like this –

God, who knows your son Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior?

So first of all, when it comes to finding that special someone, look for . . .

Someone who's saved (v1)

Someone who knows Jesus; Someone for whom Jesus is Lord of their life

Someone who has realized that they're a sinner and acknowledged their sin before God

Believes that Jesus died on the cross for the forgiveness of their sins, and rose again for the assurance of their life in heaven

Someone who has asked for that forgiveness and life

Committing to live for the God, according to his word

Look for someone who's passionate for Christ

Someone for whom Jesus is the constant companion of their thoughts

Someone whose life is consumed with knowing and following hard after him

Chorus – Give me one pure and holy passion . . .

That's the kind of person you want to marry – someone who's saved/passionate for Jesus

This is foundational

Don't rationalize it away; Don't go into marriage unequally yoked

2 Cor 6:14-15 – *Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever?*

Decide ahead of time, before you ever think of a relationship, that you will only marry someone who's saved

If you wait until you're in a relationship to determine where they're at spiritually, or to decide if this is important, it's too late

Your feelings of affection and your physical desires will take over, and you'll

rationalize it away

Decide now, and don't waver – look for someone who's saved

With that as our basis, the rest of the Psalm gives us insight into the qualities of someone who's saved; and how to know the real deal when you see it

As we work through this passage, it's important to realize that these qualities are as much about *you*, as they are about the special someone you're looking for

If you don't measure up, don't look for someone who *does*

Get *your* life and heart right first, before you start looking for someone else's

Then, with a patient trust in God, look for . . .

Someone with integrity (v2)

God, who's one of your own . . . (read v2)

The quality to look for is integrity; Described 3 ways

Someone with integrity . . .

- *Walks blamelessly* – conducting their life and affairs above reproach
In such a way that they can't legitimately be accused of wrongdoing
Resisting the temptations and desires of their sinful nature
Living according to God's standards
Look for someone with that kind of integrity

- *Does what is right*
They do the right things that beg to be done; *And* stay far away from the wrong things
Someone who *does what is right* knows the good they ought to do, and does it

- *Speaks truth in their heart*
There's no rationalizing that goes on, in order to justify questionable behavior
They speak the truth in their heart

Look for someone with an undivided heart

Someone who leads a singular life

They're the same person all the time, no matter who their around

No double life – acting one way here, and another way there

Putting on a façade around God's people, and taking it off after midnight

Look for someone with integrity

How can I know if they're a man/woman of integrity?

Time and Transparency

You must allow a lot of time to determine genuine integrity

The likelihood that you're seeing the true heart of a person increases with the passage of time – be patient in your relationship

You must see consistent and increasing transparency

If they're not transparent and open about their life, chances are they have something to hide

Ask yourself – Are they open with me? Are they open with others?

You *need* to see both

Transparency, over time, is one of the best indicators of integrity – look for it

Then, look for . . .

Someone who treats others well (v3)

The positive indicators in the previous verse are contrasted with the negative ones here

If you find . . .

Someone who *slanders with their tongue* . . .

They're critical and destructive; They attack people instead of problems

They constantly tear people down by what they say – stay away

Because you're next

Someone who repeatedly and intentionally hurts others physically or emotionally

If they're hurtful in their speech or actions – stay away

Because you're next

Someone whose tendency is to turn on their friends

If they love to hear criticism (reproach) and pile on or join in with it (they take up the reproach or the attack), especially regarding their friends – stay away

Because you're next

These characteristics are not befitting someone who treats others well

Avoid them like the plague

Instead, look for . . .

Someone who addresses the *problem*, without slandering or tearing down the *person*

Someone who *holds* their tongue more than they lash out

Someone who finds ways to *bless* others (their neighbor), rather than *hurt* them

Someone who empathizes with the hurts of others rather than abandoning them

Someone who is loyal to their friends, not backbiting and back-stabing

If you want to know how your future husband will treat you . . .

Look at how he treats his mother; And how his father treats his mother

Guys – want to know how your future wife will treat you?

Look at how her mom treats her dad

Those will be their tendencies – good and bad

It's only by the grace of God and the strength he supplies, that we're able to overcome the bad ones

Look for someone who treats others well

4th – Look for . . .

Someone who shows good judgment (v4a)

Good judgment as especially as it relates to people

Look for someone who *despises* (i.e. rejects) *vile* people

Someone who has nothing to do with those intent on satisfying the desires of their flesh

Someone who has nothing to do with those who pursue/indulge in sin and wickedness

In other words look for someone who shows good judgment in their choice of friends

Someone who hangs with the *right* crowd – *those who fear the Lord*

And despises or has nothing to do with the wrong crowd

Look for someone who stays away from bad people and gravitates toward good ones

If they don't like to be around other believers, don't entertain a relationship with them

That's usually a good indication that they're either living in sin or haven't given their

life to Christ, and are uncomfortable with the presence of the HS that a believer brings into the room

If they don't like to be around other believers, they don't honor those who fear the Lord

Shows a lack of good judgment

Worse yet, if they look *favorably* on those who are *vile*

If those are the kind of people they want to be around – their thinking is messed up, and they don't show good judgment

Let's take this a step further –

If they're not already saved *and* plugged in to a Bible-believing, Bible-preaching,

Christ-exalting church – put them out of your mind as a potential spouse

Befriend them sure, but not with underlying motive of becoming boyfriend/girlfriend

That's called missionary dating – you date someone with the hope that they will come to Christ, so you can marry them in good conscience

More often than not, you end up rationalizing away your conscience, and setting aside the admonition to marry a believer only

Or they end up making a false profession of faith just to pacify you, and then quickly discard it after you're married – I've seen it a hundred times if I've seen it once

If that describes a dating relationship you're in now, have the courage to get out

If you shouldn't marry an unbeliever, you shouldn't date one

Show good judgment yourself, and look for the same in others

Someone who keeps their word (v4b)

Who swears to their own hurt and does not change

The man or woman of God that you want to marry, is the one who keeps their word, even when it hurts

Even when it costs them more money, more time, more effort, and more pain than they ever anticipated

Beware of someone who is quick to break commitments and jump from one thing to another – because when you get married, it won't stop

Look for someone who is dependable and loyal to their family, their friends, their employer, their church

That's the kind of person you want to marry

That's the kind of person who will keep their marriage vows to you

That's the kind of person who will stick with you

That's the kind of person who will endure the pain/hurt of life, and be there for you

Because they gave their word before God and man, swearing to their own hurt . . .

“To have and to hold, for better or for worse, til death do us part”

Know what impresses me?

The husband or wife in the prime of their life, and finds themselves caring for their spouse who is incapacitated by a serious illness or injury

No matter what the personal cost, in sickness and in health, they stick by their side and see them through to health or to heaven

That impresses me; That spurs me on; That's someone who keeps their word

Look for someone like that

Someone who's compassionate (v5)

Someone who is generous with his money and possessions, not greedy and stingy

Someone who doesn't take advantage of others, even if they could

Someone who has compassion on those who are less fortunate

Close

This passage addresses two different situations for the poor of King David's day

There were times when a poor person needed a loan to keep themselves from being sold into slavery

Those who *lacked* compassion would extend such a loan, but charge them exorbitant interest rates, making their situation worse, not better

There were other times when people in positions of power accepted bribes to advance the cause of the wealthy, to the detriment of the poor

That would be like the city of New Orleans accepting a bribe from a developer to build high-rise office buildings where a poor community once stood

That would show a lack of compassion

When it comes to finding that special someone . . .

Look for someone who has compassion on the poor and less fortunate

Someone who doesn't discriminate because of a person's socio-economic standing

Someone who doesn't favor the rich just because they're rich

Someone who denies themselves the advantage or power they may have over others

Look for compassion, because if you marry someone with a lack of it, before long you'll bear the brunt of it

Summary

Look for someone with these qualities

Someone who's saved; Someone with integrity; Someone who treats others well

Someone who shows good judgment; Someone who keeps their word

Someone who's compassionate

Because God promises that *he who does these things shall never be moved*.

Never moved or removed from the presence of God

Never swayed by the forces of evil; Never overcome by the winds of culture

Never overwhelmed by the desperation of circumstances

That's the kind of person worth looking for and waiting for

But before you do that, ask yourself this question –

Am I someone who measures up to these standards?

Am I someone worth looking for?

Before you scrutinize someone else with these qualities, scrutinize yourself

Before you measure others, measure yourself

Before you expect their life to be right, make sure yours is

Commit today, before God and his people, to be a man or woman . . .

Who waits patiently on the Lord

Who looks for these qualities first and foremost, in a future spouse

Who's worth looking for, yourself

It's never too early, and it's never too late; Start now