

RELATIONSHIP WITH ROYALTY

Monday, February 12

Reading: Psalm 15

Psalm 15:1 LORD, who may dwell in your sacred tent? Who may live on your holy mountain? 2 The one whose walk is blameless, who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from their heart;

What would you do if you received an invitation to have a private meeting with the Queen of England? You would probably study up on the proper etiquette. Do I bow or curtsy? Do I shake her hand? Do I wait for her to speak first? Etc. How about clothing? Do I go in my t-shirt and sweat pants or do I go and get a nice tuxedo? There would be a lot of things to think about in our appearance and actions if we were to meet royalty.

In Psalm 15, we are reminded that we have the privilege of not just meeting a queen, but to have a relationship with the King of the universe. As we read this list of ethical commands, we must remember that they are not a prescription for salvation. They are a description of a person who already has a relationship with God.

So what do people who are right with God look like? Verse 2 gives us three areas to look at: blameless character, righteous conduct, and truthful conversation. A blameless conduct does not mean we are perfect, but that we are fully devoted to God. We are people of integrity. This is where we must start for who we ARE will determine what we DO and SAY.

When we seek to walk with God, our conduct will be right. We will not follow the wrong crowd of the world but will “honor those who fear the Lord.” The kind of people we honor and respect tells us if we are aligned to God’s ways or the world’s ways.

David spends more time discussing what we say than anything else. Maybe this is because our mouth gets us in the most trouble. He says we must speak truth from the heart. When our words come from a heart in fellowship with God they will not tear others down. Our mouths will not spread gossip or smear another’s character. Words of truth from the heart can always be trusted and will always keep their promises, “even when it hurts.” In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul summed it up like this: “Speak the truth in love” (Ephesians 4:15).

A last area that should reflect our relationship with God is our finances. Lending to the poor without interest was God’s way of keeping the rich from taking advantage of those in need. The poor were not borrowing to buy a new iPhone. Maybe their crops had failed or they lost their job and they needed help just to survive! We should use the financial blessings God has given us to help others. At the opposite end, we find people using their money to get their own way and hurt others. Where and how we spent our money says a lot about who we are and what we believe is important.

Ultimately, only Jesus has lived up perfectly to all these standards. It is through His strength that we can have a right relationship with God and dwell with the King.

THRU THE BIBLE Reading: Exodus 39-40; Mark 3