

Series: Pathway Through the Psalms

PERSONAL INTEGRITY

PSALMS 101

Text:

Introduction:

In this present hour, personal integrity is fast becoming an endangered species.

Everywhere one looks, once highly esteemed values of an upright character are vanishing.

Scandals dominate the headlines.

Business tycoons sell stock illegally.

Government officials accept kickbacks.

Corporate executives deceive their own stockholders.

Politicians break once-honored codes of ethics.

Across the board, integrity is quickly eroding.

Our culture is proficient at producing corrupt people who are skilled at lying, cheating, falsifying, stealing, distorting, and covering up the truth.

The need of the hour is for God's people to pursue personal holiness and integrity.

As they do, Christians will stand out as bright lights in a dark world.

Believers must be different if they are to make a difference.

Psalm 101 reflects a commitment to pursue personal integrity in all that one does.

As the king of Israel, David, determined to live righteously before God and the people.

This psalm records David's desire to see integrity restored to the nation of Israel.

A pursuit of integrity, he understood, must begin with his own life.

Before he could desire to see it in others, David must first live it himself.

David determines to live and reign righteously as Israel's king and surround himself with godly people.

Notice:

1. DAVID'S WORSHIP (VS. 1)

Psalm 101:1

¹ I will sing of mercy and judgment: unto thee, O LORD, will I sing.

David begins by praising God with enthusiastic worship for his matchless character.

Note it is to the Lord that David is singing and he is singing because of the Lord's:

A. Mercy

We are reminded in Psalms 136 of the wonderful mercy of God.

Psalm 136:2

² O give thanks unto the God of gods: for his mercy endureth for ever.

Understand that:

- God's Mercy Reaches Downward

Psalm 136:23

²³ Who remembered us in our low estate: for his mercy endureth for ever:

- It reaches downward to:

The discouraged

The distressed,

The depressed.

Not only does His mercy reach downward but also:

- God's Mercy Reaches Inward

Psalm 119:76-77

⁷⁶ Let, I pray thee, thy merciful kindness be for my comfort, according to thy word unto thy servant. ⁷⁷ Let thy tender mercies come unto me, that I may live: for thy law is my delight.

- God's tender mercy reaches inward to the heart, mind, and soul,

Not only was he singing of God's mercy but also of God's:

B. Judgement

David was singing because God treats fairly and rightly with His children.

We note not only David's Worship but also:

2. DAVID'S WALK

Psalm 101:2-5

² I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart. ³ I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me. ⁴ A froward heart shall depart from me: I will not know a wicked person. ⁵ Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off: him that hath an high look and a proud heart will not I suffer.

David purposed to pursue a life of personal holiness.

A blameless life is one that is faithful and obedient, one to which no blatant **sin** can be charged.

Here is a prayer that God would strengthen his resolve to pursue the path of personal integrity.

His pursuit of holiness should begin in the privacy of his own house, where he lived, in his own private world.

God's truth must be fully integrated into every area of his life.

In verse 3a:

David understood the close connection between his eyes and his heart.

Whatever is worthless before one's eyes can produce wickedness within one's heart.

The eyes are the gateway to the heart.

Through the eyes, temptation enters the heart.

If David was to remain blameless in his heart (v. 2), his eyes must remain singular and pure.

In verse 4:

Psalm 101:4

⁴ A froward heart shall depart from me: I will not know a wicked *person*.

The godly believer shuns evil in every form.

Men of perverse heart are those who are inwardly crooked, the very opposite of the blameless.

David would have nothing to do with such evil men lest he be corrupted by their sin.

He determined to renounce everything that was evil and, therefore, potentially destructive to his soul.

David refused to allow any practice of sin to enter and remain in his life.

In verse 5:

Psalm 101:5

⁵ Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off: him that hath an high look and a proud heart will not I suffer.

David knew the potential negative influence others could have upon him.

Whenever someone comes and slanders his neighbor in secret, he would reject that person and refuse this sin.

The slander is seen as coming from one with haughty eyes and proud heart.

Neither would David allow prideful people to have close access to the inner circle of his life.

If he did, they would influence him for evil.

We have noted David's Worship and Walk note also:

3. DAVID'S WORKERS (VS. 6-7)

Psalm 101:6-7

⁶ Mine eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me: he that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me. ⁷ He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house: he that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight.

David purposed to look for faithful people with whom to surround himself in his administration.

David must work in partnership with people of moral integrity who were faithful to God and his Word.

David would look for those who were blameless in their personal lives to serve him.

We too should be very careful of those that we fraternize with.

David declared that no one who practiced deceit would dwell in my house.

David took seriously integrity and was careful who he worked with.

Remember our associations often shape our attitude, actions and that which we accept.

David determined to associate with people of character.

Notice lastly:

4. DAVID'S WARNING (VS. 8)

Psalm 101:8

⁸ I will early destroy all the wicked of the land; that I may cut off all wicked doers from the city of the LORD.

With resolve, David vowed, every morning I will destroy all the wicked.

This is a pledge to remove from the Lord's kingdom all those who break God's Word.

Some sins demand that the offender be cut off from the living, a clear reference to the death penalty.

Again we see David's seriousness regarding his integrity.

Close:

Personal integrity is a commodity that enriches all who possess it.

The English dictionary defines the word integrity as "steadfast adherence to a strict moral or ethical code,

the state of being unimpaired; soundness, the quality or condition of being whole or undivided; completeness."

When a believer lives with integrity, the Word of God is completely integrated into his life.

No area is untouched or unaffected by obedience to the Scripture.

Integrity describes someone who is marked by honesty, sincerity, and incorruptibility.

He is without hypocrisy or duplicity.

Someone with integrity is consistent with his stated convictions.

Are we a person of integrity?