



Walking in Integrity

1. Wounding words

2. Worthy words

A Song for every season Psalm 15-Walking in Integrity

Read

- **Psalm 15**

Intro

We can start with the same question that David poses in the opening verses of this Psalm – describe a true worshipper? Is it someone who passionately praises God, or someone who listens to worship on Spotify all day? What type of person can dwell in God's presence? With David we can see this is not a fleeting encounter – he talks about permanently journeying with God.

David says a true worshipper is someone who walks in blamelessness and righteousness. This says nothing about singing, and our first reaction might be well who can stand this test? But we are uniquely gifted to satisfy this condition because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. With you there is the forgiveness of sins and the imputed righteousness of Jesus.

So we are new creations that are uniquely qualified to be true worshippers – but if this is my identity what does my daily life look like in reality? Does my life look like I am an authentic worshipper? Or is it just a fleeting reality on a Sunday morning?

But we will look here at the question of what this psalm says about the marks of a true worshipper and we may be surprised at the answer it provides. David's says that the way that we use words is a good indicator of authenticity in the way we worship day to day.

1. Wounding words

Words matter

- Words matter and the bible is full of advice about controlling the tongue.
- Proverbs 18:6 says that a fool's lips walk into a fight and goes on to say that the words of a whisperer are like delicious morsels.
- Slander is a massive part of our culture – it builds up people and then tears them down. It is accepted that you can say one thing to someone's face and another thing behind their back.
- We cannot allow this into the church

An evaluative attitude

- We can also be over evaluative and rate things like a church service as if we are filling in a trip advisor response.
- We need to be careful that we have an appreciative attitude and not an evaluative attitude



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- Being score-board minded and coming away from a Sunday with a self-focused what did I get out of that attitude can be misleading
- You can be too self-focused and self-destructive and negativity can go down into the inner most parts of the body.

A snare to the soul

- Sniping and back-biting can be a delicious meal set before us – these tasty morsels can be a delightful meal.
- The last evening of my honeymoon I over-indulged on a vast meal at the hotel but on the flight back and the days that followed I really suffered as this delicious meal wreaked havoc to my stomach.

To slander is to do damage to our neighbours

- When we speak in careless ways it causes problems in our body
- It does damage to our neighbour
- In James 3:5 we are reminded that the tongues can cause a blaze destroying a forest
- What has this to do with worship? In James 3.19 we are warned that it is wrong on the one hand to bless God with the same lips we then use to slander our brother and sisters.
- Someone once defaced the Churchill statue in London – and our slander or criticism can be just like that it can ruin God's view of us
- When we criticize the church or our brothers and sisters, we are criticizing Christ.
- Where is this coming from? – it may have its roots in our own lack of security in our identity as followers of Jesus Christ.

2. Worthy words

Psalm 15 – speaks truth from David's heart that we speak words out of the overflow of our hearts. In 1 John 4 we are reminded that of anyone says I love God but hates his brother then he is a liar. Psalm 15 says there are two ways we can use words in a worthy way.

Honour those who fear God

- This means to think highly of one another. In Romans 12:10 we are encouraged to outdo one another in honoring our brothers and sisters.
- The idea is that we decrease and others increase. We are not massaging someone's ego it's about encouraging people to see how valuable they are.



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Praise other people

- How often is it that we build each other up? Rejoicing in what other people have said or done that is commendable.
- Stepping into honoring people is an amazing way to grow
- But when I was at university, I had a very inspirational friend who I thought I really valued but whenever others praised them my initial reaction was to be jealous. I had to break this by making a choice to say something that honored my friend as well as other people did.
- Are we willing to challenge people when they criticize other people or the church?

True to your own words

- Let your yes be yes and your no be no
- It is easy to promise to do things and not come through on these promises
- We want to be a trustworthy people – so when we fail, we need God's grace
- We have Jesus as an example for this – he told his disciples that he would return to Jerusalem and die – and in the garden of Gethsemane he could so easily have sought a different way or changed His mind but he didn't.