

Lesson #1 – INTEGRITY IS CRITICAL FOR OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Psalm 15

INTRODUCTION:

- Importance of Subject
- Definition
- Illustration from my first employment at Design and Funding
- Goal of series of 3 messages on subject of Integrity

I. (:1) QUESTION THAT WE EACH MUST ASK: WHO HAS THE PRIVILEGE OF FELLOWSHIP WITH A HOLY GOD?

Think through **examples** from the life of King David

- A. Abide in Thy tent (Psalm 24:3-4 -- very parallel)**
- B. Dwell on Thy holy hill**

II. (:2) GENERAL ANSWER: THOSE WHO LIVE A LIFE OF INTEGRITY

3 General Categories of Integrity: Consistency between who we are on the Inside and who we are on the Outside:

- A. Overall Integrity** -- Internal Character reflected in how we live in general
- B. Outward Integrity of Action = Righteousness** -- Outward Deeds as a reflection of a changed heart
- C. Open (Transparent) Integrity of Speech and Thought Life = Truth**
 - Contrast with the woes Christ proclaimed against the hypocritical Pharisees = those who had no integrity – **Matt 23:13-33**

III. (:3-5) SPECIFIC EXAMPLES OF WHAT A LIFE OF INTEGRITY LOOKS LIKE IN FOUR KEY AREAS

A. Integrity of Refraining from Piling On Or From Hurting Others (:3)

1. In Speech -- No Slander or Gossip – *He does not slander with his tongue*
2. In Actions -- No Meanness (to his neighbor) – *Nor does evil to his neighbor*
3. In Relationships -- No Compromising Our Loyalties (hurting a friend by what we listen to or say) – *Nor takes up a reproach against his friend*

B. Integrity of Fellowship – Choosing Believers as our Close Companions (:4a)

1. Rejects a Reprobate
2. Honors those who fear the Lord

C. Integrity of Commitment Despite Personal Cost (:4b)

D. Integrity of Finances (:5a)

1. No Exploitation (Deut. 23:20)
2. No Dishonesty

(:5b) CONCLUSION: THE SECURITY OF THOSE WITH INTEGRITY

Transition to next message from **Psalm 7** that will speak about the protection and deliverance God offers to those with Integrity;