

# PSALM 15

## The *Real* Road Less Traveled

A SHORT PSALM  
WITH A HIGH STANDARD  
Psalm 15/ Matthew 5:48 & Romans 7:21-25

### FOUR QUESTIONS WORTH ASKING

❶ Are my words **helpful** or **hurtful**?

Psalm 15:2-3/ James 1:26/ Ephesians 4:29

- There is a time and place for **negative** and **harsh** words.  
2 Timothy 4:14-15/ 1 Timothy 5:19-20/ Mark 12:38-40 & Galatians 2:11-14
- Before you pass on a negative report, ask yourself . . .  
Proverbs 10:12 & 16:28/ Proverbs 26:17/ Proverbs 11:12
  - ✓ Is this **true** – am I **sure**?
  - ✓ Is this motivated by **hurt** – or a genuine **need to know**?
  - ✓ Will this make things **better** or **worse**?

❷ Are my heroes **godly** or **godless**?

Psalm 15:4/ 2 Timothy 2:24-26/ Proverbs 24:19-20/ Proverbs 29:27/ Proverbs 20:26

- Everyone deserves to be **treated with respect**.
- Who do I look **up to**, try to **impress** and **emulate**?

❸ Do I **keep** my **commitments**?

Psalm 15:4/ Matthew 5:37 & James 5:12/ Proverbs 20:25 & Joshua 9:1-27/ Proverbs 20:28

- The **small** stuff? • The **inconvenient** stuff? • The **painful** stuff?
- How to avoid a coup: **Love** and **dependability**.

❹ Do I **help** the **helpless**?

Psalm 15:5/ Proverbs 29:7/ Leviticus 23:22 & Exodus 22:25/ Proverbs 22:22 & 28:8

- This isn't dealing with modern-day **investments**.
- It's a warning against taking **advantage** of the **disadvantaged**.

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### FOUR QUESTIONS WORTH ASKING

❶ Are my words \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_?

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- There is a time and place for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ words.  
2 Timothy 4:14-15/ 1 Timothy 5:19-20/ Mark 12:38-40 & Galatians 2:11-14
- Before you pass on a negative report, ask yourself . . .  
Proverbs 10:12 & 16:28/ Proverbs 26:17/ Proverbs 11:12
  - ✓ Is this \_\_\_\_\_ – am I \_\_\_\_\_?
  - ✓ Is this motivated by \_\_\_\_\_ – or a genuine \_\_\_\_\_?
  - ✓ Will this make things \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_?

❷ Are my heroes \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_?

Psalm 15:4/ 2 Timothy 2:24-26/ Proverbs 24:19-20/ Proverbs 29:27/ Proverbs 20:26

- Everyone deserves to be \_\_\_\_\_.
- Who do I look \_\_\_\_\_, try to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_?

❸ Do I \_\_\_\_\_ my \_\_\_\_\_?

Psalm 15:4/ Matthew 5:37 & James 5:12/ Proverbs 20:25 & Joshua 9:1-27/ Proverbs 20:28

- The \_\_\_\_\_ stuff? • The \_\_\_\_\_ stuff? • The \_\_\_\_\_ stuff?
- How to avoid a coup: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

❹ Do I \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_?

Psalm 15:5/ Proverbs 29:7/ Leviticus 23:22 & Exodus 22:25/ Proverbs 22:22 & 28:8

- This isn't dealing with modern-day \_\_\_\_\_.
- It's a warning against taking \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_.

## Food for Thought

For the week of June 10, 2007  
(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. Larry spoke this weekend about keeping our commitments. Joshua 9 contains the story of the Israelites making a commitment that they refused to break even after they realized how foolish it was. Read the story and answer the following questions:

How did Israel's leaders respond once they figured out they had been fooled? How did the people respond?

What was the primary reason the leaders wouldn't break their commitment?

What help or motivation does this story offer you for keeping your commitments?

2. The book of James gives additional input on what blameless and righteous living looks like. Identify which of the "four questions worth asking" relates to each of the passages below. What additional insights do they give on righteous living?

James 1:27

James 3:1-12

James 4:11-12

James 5:12

Two other examples of blameless and righteous living are found in the following passages. After reading each one, note the additional lifestyle traits mentioned and the benefits of living this kind of life.

Psalm 24:3-5

Isaiah 33:14-16

3. As you look back on the "four questions worth asking" from this weekend's sermon, which of them is the most challenging to you right now? What steps can you take to help you develop a positive answer to that question?