

They Call Me Dad

To Honor and Challenge Dads

Psalm 15

Introduction

Acts 13:36 - "For when David had served God's purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep."

1. An Important Question (vs. 1)

2. The answers

- Things they do (vs. 2)
- Things they don't do (vs. 3)
- Commitments they keep (vs. 4-5)

3. The Continuing Promise (vs. 5)

Something to do

People who dwell where God dwells do these things:

Sincere
Righteous
Honest
Without slander
Without doing wrong
Without reproach
Distinguish between good and evil
Keep their oath
Do not take undue financial interest
Defend the innocent

The Emmaus Road

...and he opened to us the Scriptures (Luke 24:32)

It has been said that communities and made up of strong churches, made up of strong families, led by strong and godly fathers. I read recently that almost 60% of all children under the age eighteen will spend at least part of their childhood living apart from the fathers. Dads, you have no idea the power and influence you wield over your children and over our society. The research tells us that children raised in a home with a strong dad know greater levels of success and security into their adulthood. Let's go back to scripture and be challenged to be dads who are more walk than talk and pass on our faith and passion to our kids!

Monday – Character

Read Psalm 15:1-2a and James 1:22-25. What is behind David's question in verse one? What does he want to discover? What do you think it means to "walk blamelessly"? Is David saying that you have to be perfect to be in the presence of God? What is the response of a blameless walk according to verse two? David is saying those with upright character most resemble a follower of Christ and are allowed access, according to James, to the blessing of God. Ask God to show you where you are today and what changes need to be made in your life!

Tuesday – Speech

Read Psalm 15:2b-3a and James 3:1-12. What are you learning here about the power of the tongue? Can you remember a time when someone said something to you that was very hurtful? Can you remember a time when you said something that you know hurt someone else? Why do you think David includes this issue of our tongue and words in describing the kind of person that is allowed access to the presence of God? The teaching of watching our words and using them as a source of blessing instead of cursing is critical for fathers. This is why there has been so much research in the area of fathers verbally blessing their children. Dads, bless your children with your words!

Wednesday – Conduct

Read Psalm 15:3b and Ephesians 5:15-17. Here David is speaking to the area of our actions toward others. How different would the world be if people took this principle to heart! Why would it be important for a follower of Jesus to have this kind of attitude toward others? What does the passage teach us about protecting others? Dads, our kids need to see us handling our neighbors with care and standing against anyone or anything that would hurt the people we love. You are a gatekeeper and must be vigilant in your treatment of others as well as maintaining a spirit of protection within your sphere of influence!

Thursday – Values and Attitude

Read Psalm 15:4-5. There are four different admonitions being unpacked in this verse, can you identify all four? Why does David want us to despise a vile person? Isn't he being harsh or at least a little melodramatic? What relationship does the first admonition in the verse have to do with the second? Have you ever made a promise or a commitment that ended up costing you something (contracts, promises, wedding vows, commitment to our kids)? The third admonition is telling us to keep our promises even to our own detriment. Why, because it's right! May you be vigilant in keeping your word and may your kids see you doing it!

Friday – Immovable

Read Psalm 15:5. What is David saying will be true of you if you become this kind of person, this kind of father? What do you think that means? How many dads have you heard stories about that have "moved" and relinquished the opportunity and privilege to be involved in something that will outlive them? God is giving us a blueprint for blessing and stability if we're willing to follow. Are you willing? Whether you are a man or woman, boy or girl, mother or father, son or daughter may you find in this Psalm your plans for abiding in the presence of God. God has given us all we need and is inviting us trust Him to bring all these things to pass. God bless you!

"I feel that if there were a vote on who to give an award, I would vote for the fathers." - written by a third grader