

# The Song Of The Sojourner

**Introduction.** In Psalm 15:1, David asks what kind of people will sojourn with the Lord in His tent and dwell on His holy hill. The tent of the Lord was the tabernacle, or the movable, temporary place of worship for the Israelites. The holy hill of the Lord was Mount Zion, which was the location in Jerusalem where the permanent temple was built.

The temporary tent symbolizes our temporary dwelling upon the earth and the permanent temple located on the hill of the Lord symbolizes our eternal residence in glory. What kind of person will it take to inhabit these two places of the Lord's presence?

The answer to David's question lies in the next several verses as David gives his inspired answer. Some psalms are full of anguish and fear, but this one is a ray of sunlight. It is so gracious that God gives us direction through His laws and appoints the conditions upon which He will confer His blessings.

## I. ***He Who Walks With Integrity***

- A. This is a walk full of moral soundness. Abraham was commanded by God to walk before Him and be perfect or blameless (Genesis 17:1). The walk of faith will always be in contrast to the walk of the world (Philippians 2:14-15; 1 John 2:4-6).
- B. The Christian who so walks must take the Lord's will as his rule of conduct and consider himself as a sojourner (Hebrews 11:13-16).
- C. The sojourner who would dwell on God's holy hill is not satisfied with a contemplative, philosophical life; he has duties to perform according to the Lord's will (Psalm 119:1-5).

## II. ***He Who Speaks Truth In His Heart***

- A. Those who abide in God's tabernacle must have pure hearts (James 1:21; cf. Matthew 5:8; Acts 15:8).
- B. This is an individual in whom there is no false way. There is no dishonesty which leads to speaking one way and meaning another (Matthew 23:3). This individual professes what he feels and intends, but always with a loving and gentle nature (Titus 3:1-2).
- C. Far too many hollow friendships, vain compliments, and empty expressions of esteem, love, regard, and friendship exist between people today (1 Peter 2:21-22). Disingenuousness is nothing but pure hypocrisy (Romans 12:9).

## III. ***He Who Loves His Neighbor***

- A. A heart that loves truth will not slander or backbite. This individual will always be careful not to damage his neighbor's good name. He will not speak evil of anyone and will not make other people's faults the

subject of his conversation, much less of his mocking and ridicule (Proverbs 20:19; Matthew 12:34-37; Romans 1:29; 2 Corinthians 12:20).

- B. Sometimes we cannot help hearing the ungodly reproaches and gossip against another individual, but those statements can certainly die with you and go no further (Romans 13:8-10). Someone once said that the rumor mill needs a hand to keep it spinning.
- C. Some lack the maturity, courage, and kindness to handle a problem directly (Matthew 18:5). The one who wrongs his neighbor will find, in the end, that he has done the greatest injury to himself because he has not walked according to the Lord's will (Matthew 7:12; 22:37-40).

#### IV. ***He Who Is Careful Of His Company***

- A. The reprobate is one who is given over to sin. Their heart is hardened to the point of never allowing the light of the gospel to shine upon it.
- B. We cannot have fellowship with wickedness and still be considered friends of God (Psalm 119:115; James 4:4). The reverence we feel for the majesty and holiness of God will induce us to hate and depart from evil (Psalm 34:14; 37:27).
- C. We must esteem those who honor the Lord very highly in love and respect. We would do well to be in close friendship and fellowship with Christians who have the character of Lazarus and Job (Luke 16:25; James 5:11).

#### V. ***He Who Is Faithful To His Promise***

- A. This individual has so much reverence for God and for truth, that he will not change his word or his promise, even if it means a harmful disadvantage for him (Judges 11:34-35).
- B. The Pharisees were masters of manipulation when it came to oaths and promises. They had carefully worded, predetermined oaths which they had no intention of keeping (Matthew 5:33-37).
- C. Our word is a direct reflection of our character. Therefore, our word should be the reflection of a heart that is dedicated to truth and righteousness. This faithfulness is only a faint imitation of the faithfulness of the Father and the Son (John 13:1; Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18; 12:2).

#### VI. ***He Who Is Merciful In His Dealings***

- A. No man who fears God can be guilty of taking advantage of a distressed neighbor.
  - 1. The word "usury" used in the KJV is a word which means "unlawful interest." The word comes from a root which means "to bite as a serpent."

2. The true citizen of Zion will freely lend to those who have fallen on bad times, and will not be severe or covetous in recovering from those who have been damaged by a reversal of fortune (Deuteronomy 24:10-13).
- B. This person will also never be guilty, as some lawyers were, of taking a bribe from the wealthy against the innocent. Truth and justice will not stand for this. Compassion will rule the day with a Christian (Hebrews 10:34; 1 Peter 3:8; 1 John 3:17; Jude 22).

**Conclusion.** Those individuals, in whom these characteristics are found, will be like a tree planted by streams of water (Psalm 1:1-3). The life which reflects the grace and truth of God will be the life that ultimately shines forth in His glory (John 1:17; Romans 2:9-10). If you wish to abide in the tabernacle of God's service and dwell on the holy hill of His presence, then come forward today and acknowledge your need for Him.