

Psalm 101: How To Cultivate A Perfect Heart

Psalm 101:3-4

“If Jesus Were On Social Media”

I want you to consider today this question: “What if the Son of God Jesus were on social media—say, Facebook or YouTube ? What would that look like?” Before you formulate an answer to that question, today on The Teaching Room we are going to look at some verses that help reveal the character of Jesus and His priorities. Get your Bible and let’s go!

Mark 3:31-35

Then Jesus' mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, "Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you." "Who are my mother and my brothers?" he asked. Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."

John 2:23-25

Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, many people saw the signs he was performing and believed in his name. But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all people. He did not need any testimony about mankind, for he knew what was in each person.

John 5:19-20

Jesus gave them this answer: "Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed.

John 6:60-66

On hearing it, many of his disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?" Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, "Does this offend you? Then what if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life. Yet there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. He went on to say, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them." From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.

Okay, okay. I could go on with many more verses about our Saviour. Suffice to say, His priorities were not popularity, pleasing people, or the pride of life. If He were on Facebook, He may not have many so-called “friends.” If He were to post a video on YouTube Tube, who knows if anyone would watch it all the way through or give it a “like.” And would He have millions of subscribers? From the Word of God, we can surmise His priorities:

John 14:6

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Mark 1:14-15

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

Jesus was all about truth, and was the Truth. Jesus was all about priority one—the Gospel. Even Nicodemus, a master teacher of the law, was confounded by Jesus' priorities:

John 3:3

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

See John 3:1-15 for the best context of this verse.

I prefaced this lesson today with a few Jesus scriptures because I want to speak to you about King David, and where his resolve and setting of personal and public boundaries came from.

Psalms 101:3

(KJV) I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.

(NIV) I will not look with approval on anything that is vile. I hate what faithless people do; I will have no part in it.

Most of us know Proverbs 4:23 which reads:

Proverbs 4:23

Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.

It makes sense then that David—a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22)—would guard his own heart from sights, sounds, words, and images that could corrupt his heart, resulting in a cursed and wicked kingship, like so many of Israel's kings throughout time. You might say that King David's resolve—His boundary line—was the truth of God's Word, just like Jesus.

The other clear boundary line David drew was concerning people.

The Bible says this about the company we keep—in the words of Paul:

1Corinthians 15:33-34

Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character." Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God—I say this to your shame.

David was concerned about his personal holiness before the Lord (as we know he did not consistently guard his heart and paid dearly for it!). Nonetheless, as we learned in the first lesson of this series, David asked God to strengthen him for obedience and righteousness while behind closed doors. He also discerned who was morally fit to enter his residence and be a holy influence on him.

To bring this King David Holiness Plan to our day in 2024, let me share 1 John 2:1-6 with you:

1John 2:1-6

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. Whoever says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

Psalms 101:4

(KJV) A froward heart shall depart from me: I will not know a wicked person.

(NIV) The perverse of heart shall be far from me; I will have nothing to do with what is evil.

In the King James Bible, this word “froward” describes the type of person who, when confronted with the truth, turns red-faced, enraged, and may become violent. In other words, David is saying stay far away from such people. Yikes!

So we can learn much from Psalm 101 about setting personal holiness boundaries—for when no one else is around, except God who sees all (Psalm 33:13)—and setting public boundaries with people, loving them regardless of their spiritual state but loving them with regards to Biblical boundaries. We do this so that we don’t render ourselves ineffective in our personal ministry to people (2 Peter 1:3-15). Remember, our inside and outside character speaks volumes before we speak a word (Matthew 23:1-26).

I leave you with this today, and forgive my bluntness:

Don’t be a doormat for the world, the flesh, or the devil. Be a doer of the Word—know the Word well, and resolve to firmly set your Biblical boundaries.

Walk as Jesus—and David—walked.

Amen.

~ Reverend Darren McClelland