

## IF YOU COULD BE ANYWHERE

The places we go say something about us. There are places we need to go, places we have to go, and places we want to go. Do any of those places get you closer to God? In Psalm 15, David begins by asking a couple of parallel questions: *LORD, who may dwell in your sanctuary; Who may live on your holy hill?*

After God made the covenant with Israel at Sinai, he among them at the tabernacle. Once David had become king and conquered the hill country inhabited by the Jebusites, he built the city of Jerusalem and brought the ark, along with the tabernacle, to Jerusalem and placed them on what would be known as Mount Zion. This is where Solomon, David's son, would build the temple which is where God's presence would dwell among his people.

However, where God is is sacred space, and someone can only approach God (sacred space) in the ways that he has said. That's why there are so many instructions within the covenant on how to remain clean (fit for sacred space) or how to be purified if one were to become unclean (unfit for sacred space). Israelites were expected to bring their offerings and sacrifices to the tabernacle/temple as part of the worship to their God.

David knew the LORD was his salvation and understood that he would accept nothing less than undivided loyalty from his people. Israel was to faithfully represent the LORD to the other nations. That would make them different, very different in some ways, from the neighboring people around them.

David answers the two questions in the remainder of the psalm - *He whose walk is blameless and who does what is righteous, who speaks truth from his heart and has no slander on his tongue, who does his neighbor no wrong and casts no slur on his fellow man, who despises a vile man but honors those who fear the LORD, who keeps his oath even when it hurts, who lends his money without usury and does not accept a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things will never be shaken.*

As disciples of Jesus, our desire should be to be with him. If someone asks you, "If you could be anywhere, where would you want to be?" Would we immediately respond that we want to be with our Lord? Submitting to Jesus and being faithful to him will change the focus of a person's life. Paul wrote that it would completely change your perspective in Colossians 3:1-4.

*Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*

That's where I want to be, how about you?

Greg Surles