

***Not Me . . . But Yes! Me!***

Psalm 15

O Lord, who shall sojourn in your tent?  
Who shall dwell on your holy hill?

He who walks blamelessly and does what is right  
and speaks truth in his heart;  
who does not slander with his tongue  
and does no evil to his neighbor,  
nor takes up a reproach against his friend;  
in whose eyes a vile person is despised,  
but who honors those who fear the Lord;  
who swears to his own hurt and does not change;  
who does not put out his money at interest  
and does not take a bribe against the innocent.  
He who does these things shall never be moved.

A little explanation is in order here first. The **tent** of the Lord is the Tabernacle that God dwelled in to be with His people and to meet with them as they traveled out of Egypt and to the land He promised to give them. It was kind of a "mobile Temple."

After the people got to and entered the Promised Land, Solomon made the "mobile Temple" a permanent Temple. That was in Jerusalem, which was a city on top of a hill, or God's "**holy hill**."

So, when the psalmist asks *who shall sojourn in your tent, and who shall dwell on your holy hill*, he is asking: Who can come into God's presence? Who can stand before the Lord? And the answer is basically this: the one who has no sin. Only that person can come before the Lord.

Is that person you or me? If we're honest, the answer is no. And it used to be

the case (and maybe still is) that people knew that. Those who hadn't ever been to church, or hadn't been for a while, would sometimes joke that if they went back, "lightning would probably strike them!" They knew that we're not worthy. And we're not.

So is there any hope for us? **YES!** For while we cannot come into God's presence because of our sin, we can come into God's presence if our sin is forgiven; if our sin is atoned for and washed away. And that's what Jesus has done for us. He lived the perfect life that we cannot, and then offered His life on the cross to be our sin offering, that our sins be on Him and His forgiveness be on us.

So in the Old Testament, Moses and the priests could go into the tent (and later the Temple) of the Lord and meet with Him because they believed God's promise to send a Saviour, and by faith in that promise, they received the forgiveness that Saviour would win for them on the cross. The same is true for you and I today. We come into the presence of God because we believe that God has sent a Saviour for us, His Son Jesus Christ, and by faith in Him, we have the forgiveness we need, the forgiveness He won for us on the cross.

And this is true not only for this world and life, but for the next as well. For who will be able to come into the presence of God in heaven? Only those who are sinless, whose sins have been washed away by the blood of Jesus.

So we have great confidence and joy! Not in our own goodness, but in Jesus'. He is the one who fulfilled this psalm for us. He is the one **who shall never be moved**. And in Him, by faith in Him, neither shall we. Because of Him, we can say with confidence that we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever (Psalm 23:6).

*Lord God, thank You for sending Your Son for a dreadful sinner like me. Thank You for the forgiveness won for me on the cross, and the hope I have in Him and all that He has done for me - the confidence that I will dwell with You*

*forever. Through the preaching of Your Word, grant that all people of the world hear this good news, believe, and rejoice in You now and forever. Amen.*