

2/28/21

ROAD TRIP 2 DEEPER DIVE

1. SCRIPTURE

Psalms 1 (NIV)

Blessed is the one
who does not walk in step with the wicked
or stand in the way that sinners take
or sit in the company of mockers,
but whose delight is in the law of the Lord,
and who meditates on his law day and night.
That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither—
whatever they do prospers.
Not so the wicked!
They are like chaff
that the wind blows away.
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.
For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.

The wise traveler follows their trustworthy Guide.

A. Thoughts and questions for discussion:

- i. This week we are journeying through the Wisdom Psalms. A chance to grow in how others have found wisdom/ guidance/ counsel from their understanding of who God is. What verse is speaking to your heart or challenging your thinking?

These wisdom psalms also sound a lot like Jesus' teaching especially his teaching on the Sermon on the Mount. If you've ever read this message by Jesus, you'd agree with me that Jesus gives no wiggle room. He says stuff like:

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

Matthew 5:27-28 (NIV)

Uh oh! We are all in deep trouble! He says things like:

"No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

Matthew 6:24 (NIV)

No compromising in Jesus here either. One more:

“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.”

Matthew 7:13-14 (NIV)

Yeah, this is tough stuff. Not much room to maneuver around this.

As you read Jesus’ words, what do you find the most challenging? Which verse causes you to evaluate your own way of understanding things?

2. REVISITING THE VERSES OF PSALM 1

Look at verse 1 again. Blessed is the one who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.

In what area of your life do you need to hear God say, “Keep walking?” Is it the making of money and the buying of stuff that lures you down the unwise path? Keep walking. Is it the very real temptation for sex? Keep walking. Is depression and anxiety whispering? Keep walking. Just keep walking. The writer invites the wise person to resist walking, standing and sitting with other people on the journey to ruin as well. Now please hear me, I’m not saying, don’t hang out with sinners because, we’d need to adjourn church and leave because we are all sinners here. Can I get a “Yes?” I think what we have here is a wise invitation to gather women and men around you who share your love for Jesus and want to assist you on this pilgrimage.

What is God calling you to “keep walking” past/through? Who is He calling you to walk and talk with?

“Delight” means a preoccupation with something rather than just something that makes them happy. The object of their preoccupation is “in the law of the Lord.” It’s what the Jews call “the Torah.” Friends, this does not mean a preoccupation with a book but rather on the One the book reveals. Remember that the Bible reveals God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. For our Jewish friends, the Torah was positive rather than negative because it showed a person how to live, stay alive and succeed and how to have a relationship with God others and yourself. Friends, are you preoccupied with God?

The other word, I want us to consider in verse 2 is the word “mediates.”

***but whose delight is in the law of the Lord,
and who **meditates** on his law day and night.***

Psalm 1:2 (NIV)

As we have been journeying through the Psalms, how has God been revealing Himself to you? Explain.

For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,

but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.
Psalm 1:6 (NIV)

The psalmist declares that the Lord knows and watches over the way of the righteous. This knowing is not just a cognitive knowing, but rather an intimate relational knowing. You see friends, most often in the Bible, righteousness is not simply in legal terms but rather a relational one. The psalm writer is declaring that the blessed and wise woman or man who walks with God walks in righteousness, or “right relatedness” to God, to oneself and to neighbor. Sadly, of the way of the wicked is the way of self-destruction. This is a self-imposed sentence.

This is why the Teaching Team after wrestling with these verses settled on this simple truth as our sermon in a sentence: **The wise traveler follows their trustworthy Guide.** Say that with please. “The wise traveler follows their trustworthy Guide.” The simple yet profound wisdom of the Psalms is to follow God and obey his guidance.

How does this verse comfort or convict you? What choices can you start making today to follow the guide more closely?