



May 31, 2011 - Psalm 100:5

Hi everyone,

I hope this finds you doing well! Of course I mean with your memorization progress, but I also mean with just life in general. We are so glad you are memorizing on this journey through Psalms with us, but we care about you and what is going on in other parts of your life, too. Our hope and goal as a ministry is to come alongside you and build you up in Truth so that every step of your life is established in God's good plan. Not that in ourselves we have any answers to give you...we have just dedicated this ministry to seeking out God's Truth and sharing it as much as we can. So be encouraged! Know you are cared about, prayed for and that we are cheering you on as you walk with the Lord. Let's continue on in Psalm 101.

In the NASB Psalm 101:5 reads,

**"Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor, him I will destroy;
no one who has a haughty look and an arrogant heart will I endure."**

I think it would be helpful to review the overall themes of Psalms 100 and 101 before we really dive into this verse. You may remember me sharing about two themes I saw in these chapters as we began. In Psalm 100, we saw a theme of righteous worship. And in Psalm 101, we saw a theme of righteous living. As we have looked at righteous living in Psalm 101, verses 1-4 have really focused on our personal, private living; what happens in us. David has been making declarations about his thinking and choices and integrity and vision and determination toward righteousness. These are all things that each of us have to decide and deal with as individuals in our inner man. No one can force righteousness upon us. God offers it to us, but we personally decide if we will embrace it. David has made his choice clear. And as we have memorized, we have been encouraged to make these same choices.

Now as we get to verse 5, the theme is still righteous living, but there seems to be a shift that will continue all the way to the end of the chapter. David shifts from this inward focus on

righteousness to an outward focus on how relationships in his life affect his opportunity for righteous living. We need to understand this shift as we look at verse 5. No longer is David's focus on dealing with things that can damage his righteousness from the inside; now he looks to harmful things which wage war on his soul from the outside, specifically relationships.

As we look at verse 5 and continue to verse 8 in later weeks, we also need to remember that David is a king. I am not sure of the timing of this passage, meaning I don't know if David was still on the run from Saul when he wrote this or if he was actually ruling over Jerusalem. Either way, God had anointed him as a king. But you and I are not kings are we? Well not really, but as we read verse 5 and the ones to follow, let's remember that we have been given the opportunity to rule over our own lives. God has given us the freedom to choose what happens in our own personal "kingdoms."

So David says, "**Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor, him I will destroy.**" As a king, David could destroy people. Even though we may sometimes want to, we don't have the authority to do that! But remember, God has given us the authority to make decisions about our lives. How easy it is for us to embrace close relationships with people who are slandering others. We can be sitting at a table with friends who are throwing out slanderous comments about people who are not there to defend themselves. What do we do with that? What do we do with them? David says, "**him I will destroy.**" Here is the point...I believe if we are really interested in walking before the Lord in righteousness, we need to be very careful about who we have close relationships with. Slanderous talk is toxic. It affects us more than we realize. Maybe we need to "**destroy**" a relationship with someone if they are secretly slandering their neighbor, who many times is also our neighbor. Be careful to note however, this does not mean we destroy the person, but we destroy our relationship with them.

David also says, "**No one who has a haughty look and an arrogant heart will I endure.**" In other words, I am not going to have relationships with people who are arrogant and haughty. Why is David so serious about this? I believe David knew some principles found in God's Truth. Truth that says, "**He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will suffer.**" David has made it clear he is interested in righteousness, so he is going to guard his life from close relationships that can harm that.

What about us, are we entertaining close relationships in which toxic slanderous conversation is common? Are we enduring close relationships with people who have an arrogant and haughty countenance? Close relationships such as these will affect us. As "kings" over our lives, given authority to make decisions about such things, we would be wise to follow David's example.

Being very careful about our relationships...it is right to live before the Lord in this way!

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