

Measure of the Master's Men

Text: Ps 101:1-4

Theme: Living beyond Aimlessness

Intro:

- Some people seem to drift aimlessly through life headed in no specific direction.
- No clearly defined objectives—no definition or purpose to life.
- A lifestyle that is full of ups and downs—no spiritual consistency.
- Like a kite with no string—or a ship with no tiller—blown to and fro in any number of directions.
- You meet people like this every day—always after some new job, some big venture, some miracle cure, some great plan—BUT nothing ever seems to happen. They just drift along and grow old talking about the things they are going to do.
- Pretty soon you listen to these people and you smile inside knowing that the more they talk, the more things stay the same. Next week, next month, next year they will be off chasing some new venture.
- Problem: NO CONSISTENCY—AIMLESS—NO PURPOSE—NO SPECIFIC DIRECTION IN LIFE!
- Danger: like a ship with no tiller or a kite with no string—sooner or later—CRASH!

- Ps 101 written by David shortly after he had assumed the throne of the kingdom!
- Right off the bat he sets forth a list of things that will set the direction for his personal life (1-4) and his public ministry (5-8).
- Ten different times He uses the phrase “I will” or “I will not” do a particular thing.
- While most of us will never have a kingdom to rule, all of us do have a private life that we must direct toward a specific purpose.
- **How can we avoid the plague of aimlessness?**
- In these 4 verses David declares that he specifically would dedicate himself to 4 qualities that would guarantee a Godly purpose in his life.

I. Consistency: 1

- *I will sing of mercy and judgment, Unto thee, O Lord will I sing.*
- David here commits himself to consistently sing or praise the Lord. What will he sing or praise the Lord for?
- **Loyal Love: {Mercy}**
 - Literally Loving Kindness
 - David was committed to consistent attitude of praise to God for his loving kindness.
 - Do you take time consistently to praise God for his loving kindness to you or do you take it for granted?
- **Righteous Justness toward Men: {Judgment}**
 - It was easy for David to praise God during the times of blessing and the times of sunshine in his life.
 - BUT David also was willing to be consistent in praise to God when things were not so rosy.
 - When David fell into sin and had to come under the hard judgment of God he found time to praise God.
 - What about you? Do you praise God when the “sun” is shining in your life?
 - What about the times of crisis? What about the times of desperate need? What about when you have been hurt? When there is no money? What about the times when God brings judgment for sin? Do you praise God or do you blame God?

II. Integrity: 2

- I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when will you come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart.
- More than anything else, David wanted God to come and be his permanent guest.

- He was willing to make some drastic changes in his life for this to happen.
 - Are you really willing for God to be a guest in your house?
- A. Public Integrity: *I will give heed to the discreet and blameless way!***
- In my actions before others I will give consistent attention to being blameless in my public life.
 - What about you? Are there others who have observed your public behavior who would laugh if you tried to witness to them? What do your public actions say about you?
- **Private integrity: *I will walk within my house with a perfect heart.***
 - Even more important than what you are in public is what you are in private.
 - Your friends at work and at church may think you are a great Christian—but what do your children think? What does your wife think? What does your husband think?
 - Are you consistently living a blameless life at home?

III. Humility: 3

- Will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.
- Two verses that are very important:
- Micah 6:8 *What does the Lord require of you but to do good, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God.*
- Humble here means carefully or circumspectly: {Illust—cat on wall with glass}
- 2nd verse is Joshua 23:6 *Be very firm, then, to keep and do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses, so that you may not turn aside from it to the right hand or to the left.*
- David states that he hates or rejects the work of those that fall away—those that forsake the word of God. He will not allow them or their works to be a part of his life.
- The reason that so many Christians fall away from Christ is that they are not careful in how they live and what they allow in their lives.
- What about your unsaved friends? Do you allow their philosophy or their habits into your life? {Drinking buddies?}

IV. Purity: 4

- *A forward {perverse} heart shall depart from me: I will not know a wicked person.*
- Literally David is saying—I will actively, consistently refuse to know wickedness.
- In other words—David was actively and ardently committed to purity in his life.
- What about you? Are you committed to purity? What are you allowing in your life that will destroy your purity?
- Who are you allowing in your relationships that will destroy your purity?

Conclusion:

I wish that there were a happy ending to this psalm—but later in his ministry from the very house where he had determined to walk in integrity David brought in another man's wife and committed a terrible sin.

- He had determined to cast aside the perverse men from his life but later he surrounded himself with wicked and vain counselors who almost cost him his throne and destroyed his son Absalom.
- POINT: It is not enough to know these truths in your head or even to say them with your lips or believe them in your heart—you must consistently practice them in your life.