

**SERIES:** Psalms  
**TITLE:** The Heart of the Matter  
**SPEAKER:** Pastor Kip McCormick  
**PASSAGE:** Psalm 15:1-5  
**DATES:** May 28-29, 2022

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### MESSAGE TAKEAWAY

- What rules your heart, rules your character.
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### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- READ Psalm 15 1:5.
  - As Kip started talking about character, did someone you know come to mind? How did you define character before this message? Was it a person or a description?
  - Take a little self-test. The text mentions these character traits of a person who will dwell in the house (sacred tent) and live on the holy mountain. Which one of these do you most struggle with? Blameless walk, doing what is righteous, speaks the truth, utters no slander, does no wrong to a neighbor, does not discriminate, honors those who fear God, despises a vile person, keeps an oath, lends money to the poor with no interest, does not accept a bribe.
  - Kip used the example of complimenting a person on his shirt. Be honest. How many times have we complimented someone's choice of clothing when we really did not care for their choice? Clothing choices are a very personal thing. When, or is there a time, when it is best to say nothing or be kind rather than honest when it comes to clothing choices? Talk about "being nice" vs. "flattery."
  - Read Matthew 15:16-20. What does it mean that "what rules your heart" rules your character? Does "everything" that comes out of your mouth express what is in your heart? What about "just joking" or "I was just teasing?" What about borderline inappropriate sexual jokes? Everything we say is from our heart, really?
  - Talk about subtle ways we discriminate. Examples: they live there, they go to that church, they go to that school, they are covered in ink, did you see how he/she dressed, etc. Is there a fine line between gossip, slander, and discrimination?
  - When life is hard and we make mistakes, Kip encourages us to "not be shaken" and to stand firm. He then talked of "mind and motives." Discuss the concept that when God looks at us, He sees Jesus.
  - Kip made a profound statement; *"Your character needs to be more important than your wallet."* This is one of those "easy to say, hard to practice" statements. How are we doing with this?
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### NEXT STEPS

- What rules your heart?
- Set a time to have "coffee with Jesus."