



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Crown of Commitment (Psalm 101)

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These highlights of Psalm 101 summarize a leadership booklet by James Harmeling, a member of Capitol Commission's National Board of Directors. Booklets were presented to Kansas Legislators.

INTRODUCTION

Psalm 101 was written by David as he commenced his reign as King of Israel at the age of thirty. He had gone from shepherd-boy hero, defeating the giant Goliath, to that of a fugitive, pursued by a jealous King Saul. This Psalm was a coronation speech and a vow of personal integrity. This message applies to anyone whom God has granted authority, the privilege of power over others.¹ Following are some key points.

LEAD WITH BALANCE

Psalm 101:1 I will sing of steadfast love and justice; to you, O LORD, I will make music.²

King David's first commitment was to lead with a balance of mercy and justice. Love is displayed as mercy, compassion, and sensitivity toward others. Justice upholds that which is right and lawful. Leaders need God's wisdom to know how to draw on these traits, demonstrating both courage and love.

LEAD WITH INTEGRITY

Psalm 101:2-3a I will ponder the way that is blameless. Oh when will you come to me? I will walk with integrity of heart within my house; I will not set before my eyes anything that is worthless.

David saw the public suffering which resulted from the lack of integrity of his predecessor, King Saul. King David later suffered greatly due to the personal mistakes made in leading his own family. Leaders today are exposed to images of immorality, greed, and vile entertainment. These shape the heart and mind.

BE REPULSED AT EVIL

Psalm 101:3b-4 I will not set before my eyes anything that is worthless. I hate the work of those who fall away; it shall not cling to me. A perverse heart shall be far from me; I will know nothing of evil.

Many in the sports, management, and the professions of today operate as if they can gain by compromising standards, cheating, or taking advantage of others. King David vowed that he would not keep company with such nor have them on his leadership team.

SEPARATE OURSELVES FROM EVIL

Psalm 101:5-7 Whoever slanders his neighbor secretly I will destroy. Whoever has a haughty look and an arrogant heart I will not endure. I will look with favor on the faithful in the land, that they may dwell with me; he who walks in the way that is blameless shall minister to me. No one who practices deceit shall dwell in my house; no one who utters lies shall continue before my eyes.

The King committed to confront and remove any who served unethically in the palace. He would not tolerate any who would harm another's reputation by gossiping. A second practice condemned was arrogance, not respecting those in a lower position or other service. A third practice condemned was that of treachery. Overly ambitious people were only reliable when it served their own purposes. The fourth practice to be confronted was that of lying. Some would falsify records, reports, or accuse others to gain personal advantage. King David held those serving in his palace to these high personal standards. He expressed concern that such evil would contaminate his leadership and the kingdom which God had entrusted to him.

A PRAYER

Sovereign Lord, help me to be a servant, a leader after Your own heart, upright and honorable in Your sight. Surround me with those of integrity, those who avoid evil. Shield me from this perverse culture. Strengthen my faith and endurance as I serve in the marketplace of this present age. I pray in Jesus' Name. Amen.

¹ James Harmeling, Psalm 101, A Crown of Commitment. Capitol Commission. 2013. p2.

² The Holy Bible, English Standard Version. (Crossway Bibles) 2001. The source of all Scripture presented in these notes.