

The Righteous Man

Texts: Luke 23:47; Romans 5:6-11; Romans 3:24-26; Psalm 37:37

The Hebrew word *tsadiyq*, translated righteous, means to be in the right, be justified, be just, be righteous. This term can be used to describe someone who has received deliverance from condemnation. It can be used in the legal sense and relational sense. The Greek word for righteous is *dikaios* (an adjective, derived from *dikē*, "right, judicial approval"). Thayer defines this word as "approved by God;" Souter defines this word as "just in the eyes of God." Allow me to share synonyms of righteous: good, virtuous, upright, upstanding, decent, worthy; ethical, principled, moral, high-minded, law-abiding, just, honest, innocent, faultless, honorable, blameless, guiltless, irreproachable, sinless, uncorrupted, anticorruption, saintly, angelic, pure, noble, noble-minded, pious, God-fearing.

There is positional righteousness and there is practical righteousness. As we shall see further, if you have positional relational righteousness, you will live a practiced righteousness. I love the way Pastor James harmonizes the positional and practical righteousness: "Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works" (James 2:18).

1. A RIGHTEOUS MAN IS MADE RIGHTEOUS BY IMPUTATION THROUGH THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CHRIST.

Matthew 23:28: "Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity."

Matthew 3:15: "And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him."

Romans 5:19: "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous."

Romans 4:20-22: "He (Abraham) staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness."

Genesis 15:6: "And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness."

Romans 4:5: "But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness."

2. A RIGHTEOUS MAN FOLLOWS A DESIGNATED PATH.

Proverbs 2:20: "That thou mayest walk in the way of good men, and keep the paths of the righteous."

Proverbs 24:16: "For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief."

Psalm 64:10: "The righteous shall be glad in the LORD, and shall trust in him; and all the upright in heart shall glory."

Jeff Benner says "the words *tsadiyq*, translated as righteous, and *yashar*, translated as upright, are paralleled many times in the Bible indicating that in the Hebrew mind they were similar in meaning. Upright is an abstract word but it is used in a concrete manner, such as in Jeremiah 31:9, where it means "straight" as in a straight path. We now have a few clues into the meaning of a *tsadiyq*. He is one who is straight and does not depart from the way of God.

The next step is to understand these concepts from the ancient Hebraic culture and thought. The ancient Hebrews were a nomadic people who traveled a

circuit through the wilderness, following the same paths from pasture to pasture, campsite to campsite and watering hole to watering hole. Anyone leaving this path can become lost and wander aimlessly, one who has "departed" from the path."

Psalm 23:3: "He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake."

3. A RIGHTEOUS MAN IS CONTENTED.

Psalm 37:16: "A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked."

Philippians 4:11: "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content."

4. A RIGHTEOUS MAN SPEAKS THE WORD OF BLESSING.

Proverbs 10:11: "The mouth of a righteous man is a well of life: but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked."

James 3:9-11: "Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?"

Colossians 4:6: "Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man."

5. A RIGHTEOUS MAN HAS ROOT THAT BEARS FRUIT.

Proverbs 12:3: "A man shall not be established by wickedness: but the root of the righteous shall not be moved."

Proverbs 12:12: "The wicked desireth the net of evil men: but the root of the righteous yieldeth fruit."

Hebrews 12:11: "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby."

6. A RIGHTEOUS MAN IS A KIND MAN.

Proverbs 12:10: "A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast: but the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel."

Ephesians 4:32: "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

7. A RIGHTEOUS MAN IS A COURAGEOUS MAN.

Proverbs 28:1: "The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion."

Ephesians 6:10: "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might."

Psalm 60:12 and Psalm 108:13, "Through God we shall do valiantly: for He it is that shall tread down our enemies."

8. A RIGHTEOUS MAN IS NOT EXEMPT FROM SUFFERING, BUT CAN EXCEL THROUGH IT.

Isaiah 57:1: "The righteous perisheth, and no man layeth it to heart: and merciful men are taken away, none considering that the righteous is taken away from the evil to come."

I Kings 14:13: "And all Israel shall mourn for him, and bury him: for he only of Jeroboam shall come to the grave, because in him there is found some good thing toward the LORD God of Israel in the house of Jeroboam."

9. A RIGHTEOUS MAN PRAYS WITH POWER.

James 5:16: "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

10. A RIGHTEOUS MAN WILL NEVER FEEL AT HOME IN THE WORLD.

II Peter 2:8: "(For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)"

I John 3:14: "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death."

Psalms 133 teaches us that it is with God's people that we live in the place where God commands the blessing.

-Pastor Pope-