

RIDE PROSPEROUSLY

Truth, Humility & Righteousness

The Warhorse of Leadership

A Three-Day Devotional Guide

Based on Psalm 45:1-4 · Emet · Anawah · Tsedek

*“And in Your majesty ride prosperously because of truth, humility, and righteousness;
and Your right hand shall teach You awesome things.”*

Psalm 45:4 (NKJV)

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How to Use This Guide

This guide walks through three pillars from Psalm 45 — Emet (Truth), Anawah (Humility), and Tsedek (Righteousness) — drawn from the message "Ride Prosperously." Each day pairs a Scripture passage with a short story or connection, a reflection drawn from the teaching, a closing prayer, and questions to help you apply it. Space is provided at the end of each day for notes or journaling.

Each day follows the same simple rhythm:

1. Read the Scripture passage slowly, aloud if possible.
2. Read the story/connection and the reflection.
3. Pray the closing prayer — make it your own.
4. Answer the action questions honestly, in writing if you can.
5. Use the journal space to record what God is showing you.

DAY ONE

Emet — The Pillar of Truth

(eh-MET) — “Stop Managing Perception and Start Building Reality”

SCRIPTURE — PSALM 45:1–4 (NKJV)

"My heart is overflowing with a good theme; I recite my composition concerning the King; My tongue is the pen of a ready writer. You are fairer than the sons of men; Grace is poured upon Your lips; Therefore God has blessed You forever. Gird Your sword upon Your thigh, O Mighty One, With Your glory and Your majesty. And in Your majesty ride prosperously because of truth, humility, and righteousness; And Your right hand shall teach You awesome things."

Key Verse: “Buy the truth, and do not sell it.” — Proverbs 23:23

A Story to Sit With

David had everything a leader could want — a throne secured, a kingdom at peace, a reputation as a man after God’s own heart. And yet he had spent nearly a year managing perception instead of facing reality, letting a private sin become a hidden one. Then Nathan the prophet walked into his palace with a simple story about a poor man’s only lamb — and closed the trap with four words: “You are the man!” In that single moment, the official reality David had constructed collided with the actual reality God had known all along. What David did next — not the failure, but the response — is what separates a good king from a broken one who is still usable by God.

Reflection

The King in Psalm 45 does not ride on charisma, force, image, or brute power alone. He rides prosperously because of truth, humility, and righteousness. The Hebrew word for truth, *emet*, carries more than factual correctness — it conveys reliability, firmness, and faithfulness. Leadership begins with reality: you cannot faithfully lead people through a reality you are unwilling to face.

There is a difference between reality, perception, and communication. Reality is what is actually happening. Perception is what I think is happening. Communication is what I say is happening. Healthy leadership — and a healthy walk with God — continually works to bring all three into alignment. Your stated values create expectations; your repeated behaviors reveal reality. When the two conflict, people eventually believe the behavior, not the words.

Left unchecked, this gap becomes a slow drift: self-deception leads to relational distortion, which leads to organizational (or personal) delusion. Organizations, families, and hearts rarely become dishonest overnight. They drift there one avoided reality at a time. Truth also requires humility, because

eventually truth points back at you. If you are always the truth-teller but never the truth-receiver, that is not courage — it is control.

Closing Prayer

Lord, You cannot lie, and Your Word is truth. Give me the courage to define reality honestly — about myself, my relationships, and the places You have entrusted to me — instead of managing perception. Where I have been editing the story, soften my heart the way You softened David's when Nathan spoke. Let me be as willing to receive truth as I am to tell it. Anchor me in what is real, so that whatever I build is built on solid ground. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Action Step / Reflection Questions

1. Personal truth: Where might I be insecure, defensive, or avoiding something right now? What feedback keeps repeating in my life that I have not fully received?
2. Relational truth: Is there a conversation I have postponed, or an expectation left unspoken, in one of my key relationships?
3. Organizational (or personal-world) truth: Am I hearing what is actually happening around me, or only what I want to hear? Who tells me the truth without flinching — and am I making it safe for them to do so?

Notes & Journaling

DAY TWO

Anawah — The Pillar of Humility

(ah-nah-VAH) — *The Most Powerful Word in Leadership Is Still “I Was Wrong”*

SCRIPTURE — NUMBERS 12:3

"Now the man Moses was very humble, more than all men who were on the face of the earth."

Key Verse: *“He must increase, but I must decrease.” — John 3:30*

Also read: John 13 (Jesus washes the disciples' feet); 1 Samuel 15:30; 2 Samuel 12:13

A Story to Sit With

Two kings. Two prophets. Two confrontations. Samuel confronted Saul in 1 Samuel 15, and Saul explained, rationalized, and blamed the people — then asked Samuel to “honor me now, please, before the elders of my people” (1 Samuel 15:30). Even in failure, Saul was still managing his image. Nathan confronted David in 2 Samuel 12 with the same kind of exposure, and David’s response was entirely different: “I have sinned against the LORD” (2 Samuel 12:13). Both kings sinned. Both failed publicly. Only one of them possessed the humility to receive truth rather than defend against it — and that difference shaped the rest of each man’s legacy.

Reflection

Humility is not thinking less of yourself. It is possessing enough security to see yourself accurately, make room for others, and surrender the need to always be right. Moses could be described as the humblest man on earth precisely because he was also one of the most powerful — humility is strength that has stopped needing to prove itself. Jesus redefines greatness by picking up a towel in John 13: the King wraps a towel around His waist and washes feet.

Humble leaders do not make themselves smaller — they make the room bigger. And still, humility is not the same thing as indecision. You can say, “I’ve heard everyone’s perspective... I could be wrong... and this is still the decision I’m making.” That is mature leadership. Humility does not surrender authority; it sanctifies authority.

Every leader — every person — has real limits: temperamental, cognitive, experiential, emotional. The insecure hide their limits. The humble build around them, trusting that God distributes capacity across a body of people for a reason (1 Corinthians 12). And humility becomes legacy when it asks the succession question John the Baptist answered: “He must increase, but I must decrease” (John 3:30) — not a diminished identity, but a fulfilled assignment. The question worth carrying all week is simple: what do the people around me know about me that I don’t yet know about myself?

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, You are the King who picked up a towel. Teach me the strength that no longer needs to advertise itself. When I am confronted — by You, by Your Word, or by someone You have put in my life — give me David’s response instead of Saul’s: quick confession instead of quiet self-protection. Show me where I am building dependency instead of building people. Let me decrease so that what You are doing in and through me can increase. In Your name, Amen.

Action Step / Reflection Questions

1. When I am confronted about a mistake, is my first instinct to explain and protect my image (like Saul), or to own it quickly (like David)?
2. Where in my life or leadership am I unintentionally creating dependency on myself instead of building something that can stand without me?
3. Ask someone who knows you well this week: “What do you see in me that I might not see in myself?” Write down their answer without defending yourself.

Notes & Journaling

DAY THREE

Tsedek — The Pillar of Righteousness

(TSEH-dek) — “Justice Is Not a Department. It Is a Culture.”

SCRIPTURE — MICAH 6:8

"He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?"

Key Verse: “Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne.” — Psalm 89:14

Also read: Luke 12:48; 1 Samuel 2:29; Romans 13:7

A Story to Sit With

Eli was not ignorant. He knew exactly what his sons Hophni and Phinehas were doing in the tabernacle, and he even confronted them with words. But words without righteous action were not enough, and God told him plainly: “You honor your sons more than Me” (1 Samuel 2:29). Eli’s failure was not a failure of information. It was a failure of will. He recognized the wrong and still would not act. Contrast that with the parable of the talents, where the master commends both the servant with two talents and the servant with five equally: “Well done, good and faithful servant.” He was not measuring sameness of output. He was measuring faithfulness to what had been entrusted — which is exactly what righteous leadership requires of us.

Reflection

If *emet* asks “What is real?” and *anawah* asks “What might I need to see, receive, or surrender?” then *tsedek* asks the question that moves everything from recognition to responsibility: “What is owed?” Truth without righteousness can accurately diagnose a problem and walk right past it. Humility without righteousness can apologize beautifully and change nothing.

God does not merely do right — He is right, and righteousness and justice are the very foundation of His throne (Psalm 89:14). “To whom much is given, from him much will be required” (Luke 12:48) — leadership, and every position of trust, is obligation before it is privilege. Justice is not sameness: fair does not always mean equal, and equal does not always mean fair. Equality recognizes equal worth; justice recognizes relevant differences. Even Jesus did not treat every disciple identically, yet every disciple was equally loved.

Three common failures of righteous leadership are worth naming honestly: recognition failure (we fail to honor contribution — “Honor to whom honor,” Romans 13:7), development failure (we use people’s gifts without developing the person), and voice failure (we give responsibility without meaningful voice). And righteousness requires courage with hard decisions: grace does not eliminate standards.

You can forgive someone personally and still remove them organizationally. Forgiveness restores relationship with God; qualification governs responsibility.

Closing Prayer

Father, righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne, and I want them to be the foundation of my life and leadership too. Where I have known what was right and avoided acting on it like Eli, give me courage. Show me who around me is owed honor, development, or a voice that I have withheld. Teach me that grace and truth belong together — that I can love people well and still hold what is right. Make me faithful with what You have entrusted to me, whether it is two talents or five. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Action Step / Reflection Questions

1. Is there someone in my life or work who is faithfully contributing but has not been recognized or thanked? What would it look like to give them what is owed this week?
2. Where do I know something is wrong — in myself, my home, or my organization — and have only addressed it with words, the way Eli did? What action is actually required?
3. Am I confusing “extending grace” with avoiding a conflict I need to have? What standard have I let slide in the name of grace?

Notes & Journaling

Before You Ride

Before asking, “How fast are we moving?” ask, “Are we facing reality?” Before asking, “How do we grow?” ask, “What is true?” Before asking, “How do we fix them?” ask, “What is true about me?”

You can have vision, charisma, money, talent, momentum, technology, a packed building, and a brilliant strategy — and still be galloping confidently in the wrong direction. The King in Psalm 45 rides prosperously not because He is merely gifted, forceful, or visionary, but because He is anchored in truth, humility, and righteousness. May the same be said of us.

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