

Psalm 25

- A Psalm of David, that is really a prayer of David.
 - This Psalm seems to follow the general outline or chronology of Absalom's rebellion and the emotions that David was going through as a result.
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V: 1-3 David is declaring that he is lifting up his soul to the Lord, to the Lord only.

- In lifting up his soul, he is giving to God the essence of who he is in his totality, he is expressing his faith, and his trust - and because he has completely placed his trust in the Lord - don't let his enemies triumph or have victory over him.

"... let me not be ashamed, let not my enemies triumph over me..."

Romans 8:31 "What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?"

Psalm 56:11 "In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid of what man can do unto me."

- Don't let any that wait on Thee be ashamed; just the opposite - let those who willfully transgress be ashamed.
- David is more than likely speaking of physical battle, but I believe this applies to us as we fight the spiritual battles, resisting the attacks of the enemy. Let me not be ashamed, let not pornography, or lust, or drunkenness have victory over me - because those things, like any sin brings shame.

V: 4-5 *"Show me thy ways, O Lord, teach me they paths."*

- What an important prayer, asking God to show us His ways, to teach us, and lead us.
- The Psalms are so important in our prayer life, in our devotional life. If you're having problems in your prayer life, the study of the Psalms, these prayers of David are well worth studying. David is so articulate and had such a way of covering all the bases, bringing the Lord into focus.
- David has committed himself to the Lord, now he begins his petition:
- Show me, teach me, lead me, teach me. To me this all speaks to being both teachable and dependent.

“⁵*Lead me in thy truth...*”

John 17:17 “Sanctify them through Thy truth, Thy Word is truth.”

- Sadly there are some people who have a penchant towards heresy, every weird or heretical thing that comes along, they're attracted to it. They don't come around much, but when they do it's to expound or promote these ideas.
- Lead me in thy truth - keep me from it Lord!
- Heresy usually grows out of the idea or thought that God didn't really mean what He said. Therefore I will explain to you (re-interpret) what God was really saying.
- I'll give you an important clue on Bible interpretation: most of the time, I'd say close to 99% of the time, **the plain reading is the plain meaning**.

- Show me Thy ways...
- Lead me in Thy truth...
- Teach me: for Thou art the God of my salvation... life.

Jesus said:

John 14:6 “I am the Way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.”

V: 6-7 Two things: Remember your own character that you are merciful and kind, and that you are unchanging.

- Remember not / forget - my character, my sin nature - remember not the sins of my youth, the sins of my foolishness and folly.
- David is perhaps thinking of his sin with Bathsheba, his murder of her husband - feeling the repercussions of his sinful actions - looking to God for mercy.
- Not because I deserve anything from you, but because of your mercy, because of your goodness - again falling back upon the character of God.

V: 8-10 This is a “doxology” an expression of praise directed to God. David is declaring the character of God and thanking God, now, ahead of time for answering his prayers.

Philippians 4:6 “Be careful / anxious for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your prayer requests be made known unto God.”

- David is describing himself and us, the sinners - that's us, those who have fallen short, and the meek, or the humble - those who put themselves after others in importance.
- In answer to his prayer, they are the ones who the Lord will teach the way, guide in judgment, and lead in His paths which are mercy and truth.

V: 11 David admits that his iniquity is great, he at the same time is asking God for His forgiveness, not because he deserves it in some way, but he asks based on God's name which is great (er) and His character, because He is a forgiving and merciful God.

- How do we, or what basis do we have in asking God to forgive our sins? "*Father, I ask you to forgive my sins - in Jesus' name.*" That is the basis of our request because Jesus is the One who paid the price!

V: 12-14 "*What man is he that feareth the Lord?*" Or most of the modern translations have: "*Who is the man that feareth the Lord?*"

- I like "what" man, or what kind of man feareth the Lord?

Proverbs 9:10 "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding."

- If the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom then I would say the answer is wise men, smart men, they are the ones who fear Him.
- I'd also chime in with men that hate evil, they are the ones who fear the Lord.

Proverbs 8:13 "The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate."

Context / answer:

"⁹The meek / humble will He guide in judgment: and the meek / humble will He teach His way."

- That's the man or the kind of man that the Lord will teach and instruct.
- That's the kind of man who will inherit the earth.

Jesus summed it up:

Matthew 5:5 "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth."

"¹⁴The secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him;.."

1 Corinthians 4:1 “Let a man so account us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.” Stewards of God’s Word.

John 15:15 “Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of My Father I have made known unto you.”

- These are the ones that know His covenant.

Paul describes the secret or the mystery of the Lord:

Colossians 1:26-27 “²⁶Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to His saints: ²⁷To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

V: 15 I ever look to the Lord because He is the One who will rescue me.

- Perhaps as David is fleeing Jerusalem just ahead of Absalom’s arrival with his followers.

Psalm 121:1-2 “¹I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. ²My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.”

V: 16-18 David seems a little more desperate, a little more harried, things are closing in: save me, forgive me all my sins.

V: 19-22 David is declaring that he is being overwhelmed, he’s crying out to God to keep his soul and deliver him.

- Again repeating that phrase: “²Let me not be ashamed.” Because he’s put his trust in God.
- Correlating these verses to Absalom’s rebellion when David fled from Jerusalem.
- In the initial battles, David’s forces had been victorious, as in the first part of the Psalm.

“²I trust in thee, let me not be ashamed, let not my enemies triumph over me...”

“³Let none that wait upon Thee be ashamed: let them be ashamed which transgress without cause.”

- But later on, things got more desperate, it looked like Absalom’s forces might actually prevail. So we see David’s plea beginning in verse 15. “God pluck me out of the net, get me out of this trap.”

“¹⁹... *they hate me with cruel hatred.*” Absalom was trying to kill his father, that qualifies as cruel hatred in my book. So David is praying for preservation and deliverance.

- Let integrity and uprightness preserve him, he didn't say let “my” integrity or righteousness preserve me. He's speaking of God's integrity and uprightness, essentially for your righteousness' sake, for your name's sake.
- “²²*Redeem Israel, O God, out of all “his” troubles.*” This could be a cry for the nation of Israel; but I think because of the personal pronoun that it is a cry for David personally because he is governed by God - and as such save me!

Psalm 26

- Another Psalm of David. It is uncertain when or why David wrote this Psalm. It looks like he may have been defending himself against accusations of impropriety and seeking to demonstrate the sincerity of his walk.

V: 1-2 David is asking God to vindicate him, to give him justice, to defend his reputation.

- He is trusting that God knows his heart and will judge righteously.
- David welcomes the examination.

This is very similar to:

Psalm 139:23-24 “²³Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: ²⁴And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

- It is good for us to take a spiritual inventory from time to time, to allow, to request God's help with that.
- Try or examine my thoughts and my heart.
- None of this is a prideful declaration of self-righteousness, but rather the honest testimony of a real man of God.

V: 3a “For thy lovingkindness is before my eyes:” You love, your kindness, your goodness is ever before me, it is obvious.

- If it was me saying these things, I'd have to adjust to “I have tried to walk in thy truth, I have sought to do that” but I can't claim to have always done that.

V: 3b-6 David describes the men who are attacking him and gives us a list of what he will and won't do as part of his personal integrity walk:

1. “³*I have walked in thy truth.*” Meaning he has walked in obedience to God’s Word.

Amos asks the question:

Amos 3:3 “Can two walk together, except they be agreed?”

2. “⁴*I haven’t sat with vain persons...*” NKJV “... idolatrous mortals.”

- I haven’t expressed or implied approval, or condoned their behavior by sitting with them in fellowship.

3. “⁴*I won’t go in with dissemblers*” I’m not going to hang with liars, un-truthful men, hypocrites.. David would not be part of what they were up to.

4. “⁵*I have hated the congregation of evil doers.*” (giving up on politics...)

- The congregation of evil doers might refer to the mixed multitude. There were those who not sincere worshippers, hypocrites, giving false pretenses of spirituality while at the same time involved in deceitful practices, lying, and undermining the king.
- The congregation of the wicked that existed along with the congregation of the true worshippers, tares among the wheat.

5. “⁵*I will not sit with the wicked.*”

6. “⁶*I will wash my hands in innocency...*”

Psalms 1:1 “Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.”

- David realizes as we should that the people we walk with, sit with, and congregate with will impact us, either for the positive or the negative.

1 Corinthians 15:33 “Be not deceived: evil company corrupt good manners / habits.”

V: 7 “*That I may publish or proclaim with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy wondrous works.*”

- That he wouldn’t be disqualified to bring that message. If he didn’t walk in truth, if he was ok with vain persons, dissemblers, evil doers, and the wicked - he wouldn’t be qualified.

1 Corinthians 9:26-27 “²⁶I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: ²⁷But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.”

V: 8 Lord, I love being in your house, I love being with you!

Psalms 27:4 “One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple.”

V: 9-10 I’ve separated from them so don’t gather my soul with the sinful (lifestyle of sin), bloody / blood thirsty, violent men, mischief makers, dishonest.

- The wheat and the tares, the sheep and the goats are all mixed together today, but one day He will separate them, each to their own reward.
- This is describing those who won’t be in the house of the Lord - David doesn’t want to be counted with them.

V: 11-12 On the contrary. Declaration: I will walk in mine integrity, the integrity that you have given me and called me to, enabled me to.

- I know, we all know that we have no integrity apart from the Lord.

Romans 7:18 “For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.”

- That’s not what David is talking about, he’s saying that as a man he’s made a commitment before the Lord to walk in integrity, and by God’s grace that’s what he’s going to do.

Like Joshua:

Joshua 24:15 “... as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

- Petition: Redeem me and be merciful to me.
- I’m standing on solid ground, I’m in a good place - in the congregations will I bless the Lord. I’m going to talk about Jesus!

Convictions vs: commandments

Proverbs 8:13 “The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride arrogancy, and the veil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.”

Proverbs 3:7 “Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil.”

- In today's world, and very much in the church, disciplined Christian lives are the exception, not the rule.
- There are many reasons for this. Poor teaching, laziness or the part of both the pastors and the congregations.
- One of the underlying reasons for a lack of discipline, and I believe personal holiness is the fear of becoming legalistic.
- Some people equate spiritual discipline to putting oneself back under the Law with a bunch of rule and regulations that basically no one can live up to.
- I believe that this comes from a basic if not at times convenient misunderstanding of what it really means to walk with the Lord in the ways that David described.
- There is a big difference between legalism and discipline and we need to understand it, get over it, and seek to please God.
- **The difference is one of motivation: legalism is self-centered; discipline is God-centered.**
- The legalistic heart says, *"I will do this thing to gain merit with God."*
- The disciplined heart says, *"I will do this thing because I love God and I want to please Him."*
- I believe that there are those who say "I don't want to be legalistic or get caught up in all of that" so they throw their hands up and pretty much excuse or rationalize everything, and as a result have very few convictions or very little spiritual discipline.
- I'm not going to stand here and give you a list of do's and don'ts, but at the minimum we need to start with the basics of the Bible with an eye to please Him as opposed to making ourselves comfortable and not rocking the boat.

Jesus asked:

Luke 6:46 "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"

John 14:15 "If ye love Me, keep My commandments."

Proverbs 8:13 "The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride arrogancy, and the veil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate."