

Psalms 26-28

Well again this morning we are going to be covering 3 Psalms and this first one we are told is a Psalm of David and really I suppose I would say that this Psalm is really going to focus in on the character of David and then we will see there were some false accusations against him and David really invites the Lord into his own heart and mind to search him out.

Let's go ahead and look at verse 1 which says the following

Vindicate me, O Lord, For I have walked in my integrity.

I have also trusted in the Lord; I shall not slip.

It would seem here from these verses that David was being scrutinized in his life and from what we see in verses 4-5, I think that the character of David was perhaps under attack.

Here David says vindicate me O Lord and when we hear the word vindicate we immediately think that it means to declare someone innocent of blame or guilt and I think that's partially what it means but the word in the Hebrew if you do some research on that it can also mean "to judge, rule or govern."

So David is here asking the Lord to get involved and to look at matters and to create a way that others can see that David is innocent of what is being said.

Have you ever had a time when people misunderstood you or they came to conclusions that just weren't accurate? It can be a painful process to work through especially when you believe yourself to be innocent in the things that are being thrown your way.

It's very hard in these cases not to try and argue your points but instead to let the Lord be your defense and the one that declares you innocent and shows that to others.

We might also notice that David says of himself that he is trying to walk in integrity...Integrity is a word that shows up a few times in this chapter and it was in chapter 25 as well and to define this word it means the quality of being honest, having strong moral principles and also consistently adhering to them...An easier way to define it would be to say that David believes that the inner being of his life or his character has been adhered to.

I wanted to ask us all today do we have godly character in our lives? Are we people that both know what is true and also walk in it? Or do we play the part of the hypocrite and we'll get to that down in verses 4-5.

Now I'm not saying we are going to be perfect as we go through life. All of us are going to fall on our faces from time to time...Not one of us is perfect, but is the underlining theme of our lives to walk in godly character?

David also mentions here that he is trusting in the Lord and because of this he says I will not slip. You know you can't go wrong trusting in the Lord can you? I'm so thankful that as we build our lives upon the sure foundation of Jesus Christ that we won't fall. The world may come against us, people may accuse us of things that aren't true, but Jesus can make us stand.

Romans 14:4 says the following ⁴Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

Look at verse 2 which says the following ²Examine me, O Lord, and prove me; Try my mind and my heart.

I believe David was aware that while he personally considered himself to be innocent in whatever was taking place **that he wasn't perfect.** I believe David knew that he had blind spots in his life, things that he couldn't see about himself and we learn the following of our own hearts over in Jeremiah 17:9-10 which says "The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? ¹⁰ I, the Lord, search the heart, / test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.

I believe its important as we go through life to be open to the Lord searching our hearts and allowing Him to expose things that we may not know about ourselves. I can tell you that there have been times in my own life that the Lord has allowed things to happen to really cause me to examine things about myself that maybe I hadn't thought about or seen before.

A person of maturity will always have a heart that says Lord help me to see everything I need to see in my life, **even those things that I can't see about my own heart** and that's exactly what David is seen doing right here.

We might remember the following about the Lord that is found in Psalm 139:1-4 which says O Lord, You have searched me and known me. ²You know my sitting down and my rising up;

You understand my thought afar off.

³You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways. ⁴For *there is* not a word on my tongue,

But behold, O Lord, You know it altogether. The Lord knows us far better than we could ever know ourselves, He knows what we will do before we do it and He still chooses to work in us and use us. That's beyond comprehension for me.

Notice what David says in verse 3 if you look at that with me it says the following ³For Your lovingkindness *is* before my eyes, And I have

walked in Your truth. To define lovingkindness from a Christian perspective we would say that it is God's kindness and steadfast love for His children as He takes care of us in life...and that's what David was thinking about as he wrote this Psalm...He was thinking about how the Lord had taken care of his life and watched over him and how God had never failed him in all the things he had previously faced.

As David lived with this in mind, he then chose to walk in the truth of God, living for Him looking to honor Him in all that he did.

David now says the following in verses 4-5 which say ⁴I have not sat with idolatrous mortals, Nor will I go in with hypocrites. ⁵I

have hated the assembly of evildoers,

And will not sit with the wicked. To me as I look at this Psalm and David is saying I am innocent and I have walked in integrity, I think that there were some that were throwing grenades at his character.

There were some that said he was spending time with those that were idolatrous and others that said he spent time with those that perhaps said they lived for God but their actions said otherwise...David says to

the contrary of this that he hates the idea of being with those that do evil and he refuses to sit with the wicked.

This should go without saying but you and I should be very careful about who we spend time with. There is a pretty good warning found in 1 Corinthians 15:33 when it says ³³**Do not be deceived: “Evil company corrupts good habits.”** It's so true that the people we spend time with are going to rub off on us eventually. It's always a big yellow flag to me when a believer begins to spend time with those who don't believe...It's only a matter of time in most cases before that person is pulled into the world.

You and I are to live in this world but not be of this world meaning we are to be set apart unto the glory of the Lord. We should look and live very differently than the world around us...We should not sit with the wicked meaning our closeness to those of this world must be guarded.

You should be able to look at your life and see that you are spending far more time with other believers and those that love the Lord than you are with those that are living for this world. If your friends live lives full of sin and the pleasures of this world I would suggest it's time to withdraw and find a group of friends that live for the Lord.

Look with me at verses 6-8 which say ⁶**I will wash my hands in innocence; So I will go about Your altar, O Lord,**

⁷**That I may proclaim with the voice of thanksgiving,**

And tell of all Your wondrous works. ⁸**Lord, I have loved the**

habitation of Your house, And the place where Your glory dwells. I

kind of like what David does here and I think it's instructive for you and

As we encounter times where we are falsely accused or there are great issues in our lives that we are working through.

David has asked the Lord to search his heart, He has submitted to the Lord working in him and he has examined himself and believes himself to be innocent and he is staying away from those that might drag him away from the Lord and living a holy life and then what does David do in this situation?

Again he doesn't try to justify himself or have conversation with those that are against him but instead he washes his hands in innocence and he chooses to seek the Lord...When it speaks of going before the altar the idea is that he is seeking to worship the Lord and be in His presence.

David rather than focusing on the negative in his life instead focuses on the positive goodness of God. He gives thanks to the Lord and even looks to tell others about the wondrous works of God.

For David, notice where he wanted to spend his time as he says he has loved the habitation of God's house and the place that the glory of God dwells.

I have to ask you today do you love to be in the presence of God? Do you love to seek after the Lord? Do you love to tell others of the mercies of God in your life? I think that's a great thing for us to grab hold of today and perhaps we should just look at the priorities of our lives and ask ourselves what is it that is most important to us as we go through life.

In Psalm 84:10 the writer of it said this **For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand. I would rather be a doorkeeper in**

the house of my God Than dwell in the tents of wickedness. I hope that's my heart.

Over in Deuteronomy 6:5 we receive the following instruction which says ⁵You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. Are we honestly doing that as we go through life?

Let's move forward here if you look at verses 9-10 which say ⁹Do not gather my soul with sinners,

Nor my life with bloodthirsty men,

¹⁰In whose hands is a sinister scheme,

And whose right hand is full of bribes.

David here expresses his desire not to be gathered together with sinners just asking God to see that he is different than those that live for wickedness...Certainly we know that one day God shall rightly separate the righteous from the wicked.

We might even compare the heart of David with those that are wicked...For David all he wanted was to be in the presence of God...while those who were wicked were full of sin, they were blood thirsty, they were full of bribes and wickedness.

You know there should be a great divide between the seekers of God and the seekers of evil. There ought not be a blurred middle line, there ought not be some who are in the middle playing both sides, instead we should be all in on the kingdom of God.

Verses 11-12 say this ¹¹But as for me, I will walk in my integrity; Redeem me and be merciful to me. ¹²My foot stands in an even place; In the congregations I will bless the Lord. David as this

Psalm closes says I am going to continue to walk in integrity, but notice he also says to the Lord that he wants Him to redeem him and be merciful to him...That's a heart of humility as David is not demanding anything from God but just appealing to the mercy and love of God in his life.

We should remember that we will never be able to vindicate ourselves as we go through life, the world is always going to find faults with us, we are always going to make mistakes and yet at the same time our Lord is always faithful and just to forgive us our trespasses as we simply come before Him.

We should remember that we could never justify ourselves before the world...Instead it is Jesus that declares us right and works on our behalf. We have an advocate that goes before us to the Father.

David in closing simply says my feet are standing in an even place and he would bless the Lord in the congregation...I'm so thankful the Lord helps us to stand and that as we trust Him he causes us not to slip and stumble.

Let's move forward here into chapter 27 and again it's a Psalm of David and this Psalm could be said to be a Psalm of confidence in the Lord when facing fear.

Look with me at verse 1 which says **The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?**

I want to point something out to us all this morning. If Jesus is the Lord of our lives and He is the light of our life meaning He is the one

that guides us and helps us to see truth we should know that we have nothing to fear.

Fear is a difficult thing to work through and I have to say that all of us face being afraid in our lives at one time or another. Even the apostle Paul faced fear in his life for the Lord said to him when he was in Corinth the following in Acts 18:9-10 which says **⁹Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, “Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; ¹⁰for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city.”** Why would God tell him don't be afraid if he wasn't afraid and for Paul it was reasonable to have some apprehension for back in Acts 14 just a short time before this there were some that had attempted to stone him and leave him for dead.

What I am thankful for, is that really at the end of the day we have nothing to really fear for there is nothing that can come against us unless the Lord allows it. Our emotions will try to make us feel like God has abandoned us or that He doesn't love us but the truth of God's Word says otherwise.

I love what we learn in Romans 8:38-39 which says **³⁸For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.** At the end of the day there isn't anything that can separate us from the Lord.

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

I say all this to say that we should take great refuge in the Lord for He is above all things and as we are in Him there is really not one thing that we need to worry or fear. I think often times we can get all worked up in our hearts and minds when really all we need is to focus on the Lord and let Him fight our battles for us.

It's amazing how the Lord can help us through our times of fear...Perhaps you are here today and you are full of fear...maybe there are things coming up in your life and you don't know how to respond, maybe you are making big decisions in your life, maybe you are struggling to know how a family situation is going to end...The Lord can help you as you look to Him to be your light and salvation.

Verses 2-3 say this 27 ²When the wicked came against me To eat up my flesh, My enemies and foes, They stumbled and fell. ³Though an army may encamp against me, My heart shall not fear; Though war may rise against me, In this I will be confident. David had experienced multiple times in his life where his enemies had surrounded him to destroy him and take his life and each time they had stumbled and fallen.

God has a way of standing up for those that he has called. There were many times David felt his enemies were surrounding him and we might think of the time that Saul was after him and David was running from one place to the next hiding in caves and yet the Lord protected him...And then you have David before Goliath the giant and the Lord stood against that man as well on behalf of David...and what about the time that his own son turned on him and wanted him dead?

Each time David had seen the Lord work on his behalf ...Even though armies came and encamped against him David says I will not fear and

even if war rose against him he would be confident...Not in himself or his abilities but instead in the fact that God was the one that led his life.

It's a hard thing to have confidence in the Lord when the battles of life are raging around us...For me I can just look at the circumstances around me and I can get all worked up and I can start to try and figure things out in my own human wisdom but I believe there is a much better way to handle the trials of this world and David hits the nail on the head if you look with me at verses 4-5 which say ⁴**One thing I have desired of the Lord, That will I seek: 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.** ⁵**For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; In the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock.**

What does David do? How does he live? What does he focus on? All David wants is to dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of his life...and I don't think he means physically being in the place of God's presence but instead that he wants his whole life to revolve around one thing and that is seeking the Lord and being with Him and worshipping Him.

I have to examine my own life when I study the scriptures and I have to ask myself what do I live for and what do I seek as the number one thing in my life...I hope my hearts deepest desire is to be in the presence of God and to live my whole life centered around who He is and what He would have for me...I'm sure I fall short but I hope the Lord has a hold of me and I want to live for Him minute by minute...I

hope that I'm a person that honors Him in my heart and mind and I worship Him well with my thoughts and my actions.

I have to turn that around on you personally this morning as well.

What do you live for? What do you seek in your life? Do you look to dwell in the presence of God? Or do you live for the things of the world? Are there many other things that take priority over your relationship with God and His people?

I also need to point out that David says here that he desired to behold the beauty of the Lord...You know when you get your focus off of your circumstance and you begin to put your attention on the beauty of the Lord I believe your problems just begin to melt away. I think so much of our Christian experience is fought in the mind isn't it?

It's a hard thing to take our thoughts captive and make them submissive to Christ but the best way to do that I would submit to you is by being in His presence and seeking Him above all things. As you spend time with Jesus as you behold His amazing beauty I believe you will find yourself with much less fear as you face life's difficulties.

David could say with confidence that in times of trouble the Lord would hide him in His pavilion and in the secret place of His tabernacle...In other words David had discovered the place of refuge was found in the presence of God.

I don't know how many times in my life I have been in despair and my mind is all over the place and I am trying to figure things out and as I simply step into the presence of God I have found His peace and His strength in my life. It's a beautiful thing and maybe today you are here because you are in a time of fear and trouble...I can't encourage you

enough to take your anxieties and to cast them upon our Lord for He cares for you personally...We should look to dwell in the presence of God and He will certainly help you and that means that you may need to slow down and you may need to prioritize time with God over the other activities that you have in your life.

Look with me at verse 6 which says this ⁶And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me;

Therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle;

I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the Lord. Notice the victory that David has here in his life as he is seeking the Lord and he says that his head will be lifted over his enemies and he as a result of the Lord's work on his behalf would offer sacrifices of joy in the tabernacle of God and he would sing unto the Lord.

One quick word here...Don't be a thankless son or daughter in the kingdom of God. When the Lord is working in your life make sure you praise Him for it...I believe thankfulness to the Lord is perhaps one of the best places we can find ourselves and it will combat fear, depression, doubt and struggles.

Look at verses 7-10 which say ⁷Hear, O Lord, when I cry with my voice!

Have mercy also upon me, and answer me.

⁸When You said, "Seek My face,"

My heart said to You, "Your face, Lord, I will seek."

⁹Do not hide Your face from me;

Do not turn Your servant away in anger;

You have been my help;

Do not leave me nor forsake me,

O God of my salvation.

¹⁰When my father and my mother forsake me,

Then the Lord will take care of me.

David here is just asking the Lord to work on his behalf and I think this shows the humility of David not assuming God will work but instead entrusting himself to the care of his Lord.

David asks the Lord to have mercy upon him and answer him...We can even see here that the Lord asked him to seek His face, which means God was inviting David to go deeper in his relationship with God.

David requests of God that He would not hide his face from him and that his servant would not be turned away in anger and he just asks the Lord not to leave nor forsake him and I have to tell you today that if you are in Christ we have the following promise in Hebrews 13:5 which says ⁵**Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."**

I want you to know the Lord is with you and if He is with us we have nothing whatsoever to fear as we go through life...Our eternity is secure...Though man may take our fleshly physical life, the Lord has a place in heaven that is prepared for us that we will one day enter into.

Look at verses 11-13 which say ¹¹**Teach me Your way, O Lord, And lead me in a smooth path, because of my enemies.** ¹²**Do not deliver me to the will of my adversaries; For false witnesses have risen against me,**
And such as breathe out violence. ¹³**I would have lost heart, unless**

I had believed That I would see the goodness of the Lord In the land of the living.

David wanted to be taught by the Lord, led by the Lord on smooth paths and he wanted the Lord to deliver him as he went through life and there were those that were false witnesses that had come against him and David asked the Lord to deal with them.

It's easy to lose heart as you go through life, but I believe that as we dwell in the presence of God that He will surely help us and establish us that we might see the Lord in the land of the living.

I pray you can see the goodness of the Lord and that you can behold the beauty of the Lord.

Look at verse 14 which is an exhortation from David I believe which says ¹⁴ **Wait on the Lord; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the Lord!** David I believe had seen this time and time again in his life and I believe we can see it in our own lives as well as we simply wait upon the Lord.

You know that's a hard thing to accomplish I believe. I don't know about you but I am real quick when I speak with God to talk and talk and talk and talk some more...I can talk to the Lord for 30 minutes easy multiple times in a day but do you know what I struggle with? Just waiting on Him, sitting in His presence, asking Him to speak to me and show me things I need to hear. It sure can be difficult can't it? And yet I tell you it's glorious when we learn that our relationship with God is a two-way street...I get to drop my burdens and concerns and intercessory prayers off to Him and then He wants to speak as well if I can work to quiet my heart.

I'm so thankful that the Lord can strengthen our hearts and help us. I'm thankful the Lord can minister to us in all kinds of ways. I'm thankful that He stands up for us even when we may feel all alone. I'm thankful that the Lord is eager to minister to our hearts as we simply come to Him.

To close this Psalm I wanted to encourage you with what the Word says over in Hebrews 11:6 which says **6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.** There is a reward for those that choose to seek the Lord...Maybe today you need to hear that...Maybe you have never really stopped and sought the Lord...I don't mean just come to church and read a few verses from the Word of God...I think this means you have one desire and it's to seek after Him. Are you there in your life? Have you taken the time to be in His presence...Have you taken the time to just sit and wait upon Him?

It's a beautiful thing to enter into.

Let's look at one last Psalm quickly this morning if you look at Psalm 28 verses 1-2 which say **To You I will cry, O Lord my Rock: Do not be silent to me, Lest, if You are silent to me, I become like those who go down to the pit. 2 Hear the voice of my supplications When I cry to You, When I lift up my hands toward Your holy sanctuary.**

Here we can see David again crying out to the Lord declaring God is his rock and asking the Lord not to be silent...David had a fear that he was going to end up in the pit that things were going to come against him and he was going to fail...where else could he turn to but the Lord as He lifted His hands towards the sanctuary of the Lord.

Verse 3 says ³Do not take me away with the wicked

And with the workers of iniquity, Who speak peace to their neighbors, But evil is in their hearts.

David didn't want to find himself in the same place the wicked were as they went through life.

He knew that his heart was in the right place that he wanted to speak peace to his neighbors and he refused to do evil.

Certainly, there must be a difference between those that believe and those that don't.

Verses 4-5 say ⁴Give them according to their deeds,

And according to the wickedness of their endeavors;

Give them according to the work of their hands;

Render to them what they deserve.

⁵Because they do not regard the works of the Lord,

Nor the operation of His hands,

He shall destroy them

And not build them up.

Here David is just asking the Lord for justice...I think you and I hope for the same thing as we go through life and from time to time I will ask the Lord to give those who are wicked what they deserve...I know that I don't deserve good and that the wicked don't either but sometimes in my heart I can say "lord enough is enough, get them, take care of business"...many times you and I can become righteously angry over the fact that many in this world have no regard for the Lord nor His works nor the operation of His hands.

It's a hard thing I know. I watch what happens in our country and I can't stand it sometimes and yet I know the Lord loves each person, even those that speak so much hatred...I do want to see justice and

judgment but I also submit to His timing and how He takes care of things.

Look with me at verses 6-7 which say ⁶**Blessed be the Lord, Because He has heard the voice of my supplications!**

⁷**The Lord is my strength and my shield;
My heart trusted in Him, and I am helped;
Therefore my heart greatly rejoices,
And with my song I will praise Him.**

Well, it would seem that the Lord has broken through to David's heart as this Psalm progresses and here he is just rejoicing in what the Lord has done in his life as he knows the Lord has heard him.

Again, we see David say the Lord is his strength and his shield and he had trusted in the Lord and was helped.

I sure hope we are a people that rejoice in the Lord regularly. It's important that we do so...Paul said we are to rejoice in the Lord always and again we should rejoice.

Then look at verses 8-9 which say ⁸**The Lord is their strength, And He is the saving refuge of His anointed.**

⁹**Save Your people, And bless Your inheritance; Shepherd them also, And bear them up forever.**

As this closes David is here in my opinion speaking of the people of Israel as he says the Lord is their strength and asking the Lord to save His people and bless His inheritance.

He even asks the Lord to shepherd them also and bear them up forever. Certainly, God's heart is to shepherd His people Israel. I can't help but be reminded of what the Lord said in Matthew 23:37 to the

people of Israel when He said ³⁷ “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under *her* wings, but you were not willing! The heart of God has always been to watch over His people Israel and yet they have really rejected Him every step of the way.

One day they won't but for now they continue to reject His work in their hearts.

Today as we close I want to just encourage you as we worship the king that you would just cry out to Him in your heart as well, that you would look for His leading in your life, that you would cling to Him and choose to be in His presence.

Let's pray.

Psalms 26-28 “To Dwell In The House Of The Lord”

Chapter 26

Verse 1

Romans 14:4

Verse 2

Jeremiah 17:9-10

Psalms 139:1-4

Verses 4-5

1 Corinthians 15:33

Verses 6-8

Psalms 84:10

Deuteronomy 6:5

Chapter 27

Verse 1

Acts 18:9-10

Romans 8:38-39

Romans 8:31

Verses 7-10

Hebrews 13:5

Verse 14

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Chapter 28

Verses 8-9

Matthew 23:37