

Heart to Heart with the Living God

Psalm 26

"But I lead a blameless life; redeem me and be merciful to me." Psalm 26:11

This psalm is attributed to David. It appears that he is the object of false accusations. In response to this slander he writes the prayer we have recorded in Psalm 26.


Day 1: Read Psalm 26.

1. To whose "court" does David go to plead his case when he is slandered by evil men?

Read 1 Corinthians 4:3-4. How did Paul respond in a similar situation?

2. Where do you "go" when others slander you? What responses do David, Paul and Jesus model for us in the face of undeserved criticism and accusations? (1 Cor. 4:5; 1 Pet. 2:19-23)
3. After entering the courtroom David talks about his allegiances.
 - a. With what and with whom has David aligned his heart?
 - b. What things and people has David taken a stand against?

Days 2 and 3: Read Psalm 26.

4. How do David's statements about being blameless strike you?
5. David's claim to be blameless carries the sense of being wholehearted and sincere in his desire to follow the Lord. What does David pray for that shows he does not see himself as faultless (or sinless)? (v. 2, 11b; * Phil. 3:4b-14)
6. What surprising evaluation does God give of David's life in 1 Kings 9:4?

Since God certainly knows David is a sinner (remember Psalm 51), how can his evaluation be accurate? (2 Sam. 12:13; Ps. 32:1, 2, 5; Ps. 103:10-12)

7. What do you think motivates David to ask the Lord to test, try and examine his “heart and mind” (v. 2)? (Ps. 139:23-24)

Why does he trust the Lord to examine him so thoroughly? (v. 3; Ps. 130:3-8)

Day 4: Read Psalm 26

8. Clearly, David does not want to associate with the wicked. (📖* Ps. 1)
- a. Describe their character and their actions. (vv. 4-5, 9-10)
 - b. Describe how David feels about them. (v. 5)
 - c. Describe the end David knows awaits them. (v. 9; Ps. 5:4-6)
9. Where does David want to be and what does he want to do? (vv. 6-8, 12; Ps. 27:4)
10. David had to go to a specific place to experience God’s presence. How do we enter the presence of God? (Heb. 10:19-23)

Day 5: Read Psalm 26.

11. Although David is in the midst of difficult and potentially very disheartening circumstances, he states at the end of his prayer: “My feet stand on level ground” (v.12). How can he say this with such confidence? (v. 3; Ps. 16:8-11; 21:7; 27:1-3)
12. The desire of King David was to trust and obey the Lord, and yet because he knew his record was far from perfect, he calls out for redemption and mercy. (v. 11)
- a. What does the New Testament tell us about the record of King Jesus? (2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 4:14-15; 1 Jn. 3:5)
 - b. What does that mean for you? (1 Cor. 1:30; Heb. 4:16)
13. How can you get to the same place as David—with your feet on level ground and with a commitment to praise the Lord both now and in the future? (Phil. 4:4-9; Col. 1:19-23; 2:6-7)