

THE RELEVANCY OF DAVID'S PRAYER TODAY
PSALM 26:1-12

Introduction:

1. The writer of this Psalm is none other than David, who later would become the king of Israel.
2. He writes this Psalm as one who is persecuted, prays for the vindication of his rights and for rescue from wicked men; and bases this prayer upon the relation in which he stands to God.
3. It is quite an eye opening prayer that should show us what real prayer is.
4. So let us look closely at this wonderful prayer of this man named David.

I. THIS PRAYER OF DAVID'S WAS A PRAYER OF HONESTY. **v. 1** *Vindicate me, O Lord, for I have walked in my integrity. I have also trusted in the Lord; I shall not slip.*

- A. David's integrity. By his "integrity" he means the purity of his intentions and designs; the uprightness of his conduct, and the simplicity and sincerity of his conduct towards all men.
- B. David had complete trust in the Lord. **cf. Psalm 25:2** *O my God, I trust in You; let me not be ashamed; let not my enemies triumph over me.*
- C. David felt strongly that he would stay true to God and not slip in his faithfulness to Him. He would not swerve from the paths of righteousness and truth. The sad truth is that he did slip, many times, but always sought God's forgiveness. **Psalm 51:1-4** *Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your loving kindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight—that You may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge.*
- D. Because of these three attributes, He asks the Lord to vindicate, or judge him. David asks a judgment of his own case, so he brings the matter before God for Him to decide. He submits the facts in regard of himself to God, so that God may pronounce whether they constitute evidence of real holiness.

II. THIS PRAYER OF DAVID'S WAS A PRAYER FOR GOD TO EXAMINE THE REAL DAVID. **vv. 2-6a** *Examine me, O Lord, and prove me; try my mind and my heart. For Your loving kindness is before my eyes, and I have walked in Your truth. I have not sat with idolatrous mortals, nor will I go in with hypocrites. I have hated the assembly of evildoers, and will not sit with the wicked. I will wash my hands in innocence.*

- A. David asks the Lord for three areas of examination:
 1. To prove him. To ascertain his qualities.
 2. To test his mind.
 3. To test his heart.
- B. The deepest desire that David was asking for was to be right with God and to walk in truth. **Psalm 25:5** *Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; on You I wait all the day.*
- C. David came to detest the wicked and avoid evildoers at all cost.
- D. So he proclaims his innocence in partaking of evil.

III. THIS PRAYER OF DAVID'S WAS A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING. **vv. 6b-7** *So I will go about Your altar, O Lord, that I may proclaim with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all Your wondrous works.*

- A. In going around the altar of God, it was not to offer upon it any slain animal, but to offer the sacrifices of praise both temporal and spiritual, and that with a confession and acknowledgment of sin and unworthiness. **Psalm 100:4-5** *Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations.*
- B. All this is agreeable to the will of God and is well pleasing in his sight.
- C. What glorifies God is but our reasonable service.
- D. It is to tell of His wondrous works in creation and providence; and especially of grace and redemption. **Psalm 105:2** *Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; talk of all His wondrous works!*

IV. THIS PRAYER OF DAVID'S WAS A PRAYER OF PRAISE FOR A HOUSE OF WORSHIP. **vv. 8-12** *Lord, I have loved the habitation of Your house, and the place where Your glory dwells. Do not gather my soul with sinners, nor my life with bloodthirsty men, in whose hands is a sinister scheme, and whose right hand is full of bribes. But as for me, I will walk in my integrity; redeem me and be merciful to me. My foot stands in an even place; In the congregations I will bless the Lord.*

- A. David often declared his love for the house of God because he knew it was where the Shekinah glory of God was manifested.
- B. David found great comfort and joy when in the house of the Lord. **Psalm 122:1** *I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the Lord."*
- C. We should come to the house of God with diligence, preparation, and prayer.
- D. If you come to church fresh from being in the company of ungodly people, and with no real seriousness of spirit, it is no wonder if you are not benefited. But come with humility, come with sincere love of truth, come with hope in the boundless mercy of God and the grace of Jesus, you will not come in vain.
- E. After gathering together in church capacity to worship our Great God and Savior, your grateful song will be, "This is none other but the house of God, this is the gate of heaven" (**Genesis 28:17**)

V. WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THIS PRAYER OF DAVID'S?

- A. We can learn that we need to be honest with God about our spiritual condition.
- B. We need to ask God to look deep within us, to prove us, to test our mind and our heart.
- C. We should always be thankful for what God has done, and is doing, in our life.
- D. We should always make an effort to be in church to worship and glorify God.