

Evening Sermon Outline - May 26, 2019

“A Prayer for Vindication and Redemption” Psalm 26

I. A plea for vindication does not imply a claim of sinlessness –

A Psalm of David. ¹ Vindicate me, O LORD, for I have walked in my integrity. I have also trusted in the LORD; I shall not slip. Psalm 26:1

1. Look back one Psalm to another Psalm of David, Psalm 25, and it is clear David is not claiming sinless perfection –

⁷ **Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions;... Psalm 25:7**

¹¹ **For Your name’s sake, O LORD, pardon my iniquity, for it is great. Psalm 25:11**

¹⁸ **Look on my affliction and my pain, and forgive all my sins. Psalm 25:18**

2. Walking in integrity includes honesty and humility about sin –

¹⁰ **If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. 1 John 1:10**

*3. Walking as God would have us walk is a walk of faith –
... I have also trusted in the LORD; I shall not slip. Psalm 26:1B*

⁵ **Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6**

⁷ **For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7**

What David would have God vindicate is what God enabled him to do.

II. David’s plea for vindication included a prayer for examination -

² **Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my mind and my heart. Psalm 26:2**

1. The Hebrew words translated “prove” and “try” two different

words are both words used for melting precious metals. Job used such a word to describe the trials God put him under –

¹⁰ **But He knows the way that I take; when He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold. Job 23:10**

2. David knew such trial, proving would improve him as well, this is taught in other Scripture – James 1:2-5

3. Yet, David is also knowledgeable of ways he is already right:

A. God Himself and God’s grace was David’s Vision –

³ **For Your lovingkindness is before my eyes,... Psalm 26:3 A**

*B. God’s Word (truth) was the Light of David’s path -
And I have walked in Your truth. Psalm 26:3 B*

C. David had kept himself away from idol worshippers and hypocrites -

⁴ **I have not sat with idolatrous mortals, Nor will I go in with hypocrites. Psalm 26:4**

D. David hated the assembly of evil doers -

⁵ **I have hated the assembly of evildoers, and will not sit with the wicked.**

*“A man who does not hate evil terribly, does not love good heartily.”
CH Spurgeon*

(D1) It is important to talk about HATE! Sinners usually accuse the righteous of being haters, why? Because they hate sin!

⁹ **Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Romans 12:9**

(D2) It is especially important for a king, like David, to hate the assembly of evildoers.

Civil Rulers have a responsibility to enforce God’s Law –

³ **For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. Romans 13:3**

*III. David did not sit with the wicked, but he did go to church
(the version of church of that day) -*

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. Psalm 26:6-8

1. *The words here, "I will wash my hands in innocence" imply David had false accusers. Like his descendant King Jesus, David was falsely accused by the wicked –*

Jesus said -

²⁶ Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for so did their fathers to the false prophets. Luke 6:26

2. *David dwelt in and loved God's House, His worship –*

⁸ LORD, I have loved the habitation of Your house, and the place where Your glory dwells. Psalm 26:8

3. *He pleads with God that he not be included / gathered with sinners*

⁹ Do not gather my soul with sinners, Nor my life with bloodthirsty men, ¹⁰ In whose hands is a sinister scheme, And whose right hand is full of bribes. Psalm 26:9-10

- A. *He was a sinner, remember - Psalm 25:7, 11 & 18*
- B. *We are all sinners – Romans 3:10-11*
- C. *Yet, we don't want to be gathered with sinners -*

Death is the gathering time, which the Psalmist has in view in the text. Ye have a time here that ye call the gathering time, about the term when the servants are going away, wherein ye gather your strayed sheep, that everyone may get their own again. Death is God's gathering time wherein he gets the souls belonging to him, and the devil those belonging to him. They did go long together, but then they are parted; and saints are taken home to the congregation of saints, and sinners to the congregation of sinners. And it concerns us to say, "Gather not my soul with sinners." Whoever be our people here, God's people or the devil's, death will gather our souls to them. It is a horrible thing to be gathered with sinners in the other world. To think of our souls being gathered with them there, may make the hair

of one's head stand up. Many now like no gathering like the gathering with sinners; it is the very delight of their hearts; it makes a brave jovial life in their eyes. And it is a pain to them to be gathered with saints, to be detained before the Lord on a Sabbath-day.

But to be gathered with them in the other world, is a horror to all sorts. 1. The saints have a horror of it, as in the text. To think to be staked down in their company in the other world would be a hell of itself to the godly. David never had such a horror of the society of the diseased, the persecuted, etc., as of sinners. He is content to be gathered with saints of whatever condition; but, "Lord," says he, "Gather not my soul with sinners."

The wicked themselves have a horror of it. Numb. 23:10. "Let me die the death of the righteous," said the wicked Balaam, "and let my last end be like his." Though they would be content to live with them, or be with them in life, their consciences bear witness that they have a horror of being with them in death. They would live with sinners, but they would die with saints. A poor, unreasonable, self-condemning thought.—*Thomas Boston.*

²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:24-25

Consider also the verse that follows the great Book of Hebrews church attendance verses –

²⁶ For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, ²⁷ but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Hebrews 10:26-27

IV. David would plea for redemption with the redeemed -

¹¹ But as for me, I will walk in my integrity; Redeem me and be merciful to me. ¹² My foot stands in an even place; In the congregations I will bless the LORD. Psalm 26:11-12

¹¹ So the ransomed of the LORD shall return, And come to Zion with singing, With everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness; Sorrow and sighing shall flee away. Isaiah 51:11

Arnold Brevick