

Psalm 25

1 A Psalm of David. Unto thee, O LORD, do I lift up my soul. 2 O my God, I trust in thee: let me not be ashamed, let not mine enemies triumph over me. 3 Yea, let none that wait on thee be ashamed: let them be ashamed which transgress without cause. 4 Shew me thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths. 5 Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day. 6 Remember, O LORD, thy tender mercies and thy lovingkindnesses; for they have been ever of old. 7 Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions: according to thy mercy remember thou me for thy goodness' sake, O LORD.

8 Good and upright is the LORD: therefore will he teach sinners in the way. 9 The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way. 10 All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.

11 For thy name's sake, O LORD, pardon mine iniquity; for it is great.

12 What man is he that feareth the LORD? him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose. 13 His soul shall dwell at ease; and his seed shall inherit the earth. 14 The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant. 15 Mine eyes are ever toward the LORD; for he shall pluck my feet out of the net.

16 Turn thee unto me, and have mercy upon me; for I am desolate and afflicted. 17 The troubles of my heart are enlarged: O bring thou me out of my distresses. 18 Look upon mine affliction and my pain; and forgive all my sins. 19 Consider mine enemies; for they are many; and they hate me with cruel hatred. 20 O keep my soul, and deliver me: let me not be ashamed; for I put my trust in thee. 21 Let integrity and uprightness preserve me; for I wait on thee. 22 Redeem Israel, O God, out of all his troubles.

Introduction notes:

1. "A Psalm of David" – The inspired heading tells us that David composed this song. Certainly as a prayer of repentance most likely for his sins against Uriah and Bathsheba (2 Sam. 11 & 12).
2. Another acrostic psalm, one of nine acrostic psalms – though this one is also incomplete. (Pss. 9, 10, 25, 34, 37, 111, 112, 119, & 145). This Psalm has a double aleph (vv.1-2) and a double resh (vv.18-19), and it concludes with pe (v.22). Resh is the 20th letter, and Pe is the 17th letter in the Hebrew Alphabet. Why was this Psalm irregular? Perhaps because David did not want the literary structure to overshadow his prayer of repentance.

Outline:

- A. David's Prayer for Mercy (vv.1-7)
- B. David's Assurance of Help (vv.8-10)
- C. David's Prayer for Forgiveness (v.11)
- B.' David's Assurance of Help (vv.12-15)
- A.' David's Prayer for Mercy (vv.16-22)

Observations:

1. David's 6 prayer requests: v.4 – Show me thy ways; teach me (2x); lead; and remember (2x). Discipleship includes: knowledge, instructions, guidance, remembrance.
2. God's tender mercies are infinite. His lovingkindness (covenantal – never failing; Gen. 24:1, 12). When we pray we can appeal to God's love and mercy and kindness, and forgiveness.
3. (v.10) keep here to protect or guard not merely to obey. We are to keep God's Word (MT/TR/KJV).
4. The heart of this Psalm is v.11. This is the first time David's direct prayer for forgiveness is mentioned in Psalms. (Paralleled with Ps. 32 & 51).
5. (v.14) – The secret of the LORD is an expression of "inward friends" (Job 19:19) – God shows His way to His friends (Ps. 25:8,9,12).
6. David not only prays for himself but also for Israel. David's private sin affected his people.

Lesson: We must ask the LORD to teach us His way.