

A PSALM OF PERSONAL INTEGRITY
Psalm 26

Introduction:

A. Have you ever been falsely accused?

1. Especially by your enemies...
2. How do you prove yourself?

B. David is not boasting in this psalm, though it may seem that way at times....

1. He knows his integrity...
2. He is not asserting sinlessness before a holy God, but asserting integrity before a sinful race...

C. Verse one is a declaration of David's integrity

1. He makes an appeal to heaven...

- a. Witness what I am about to say...
- b. God weighs what I am about to say as being true...
- c. II Timothy 4:1

2 Timothy 4:1 I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

d. I Thessalonians 2:10

10 Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe:

2. David's Integrity

- a. God is interested in character...
- b. David's quest in life was character...
- c. Psalm 1:1-3

Psalm 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

3. The world is interested in what a man does; God is interested in what a man is.

D. What is integrity?

1. A heart that is not divided:
 - a. Matthew 6:24

24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

- b. Duplicity means trying to serve two masters – (divided)
 - c. If your eye be single then your whole body is full of light....
 - d. If your eye be double, then your whole body is full of darkness....
 2. Psalm 25:21, 26:1
 - a. When we have integrity, we do not have to worry about sliding...
Psalm 26:1, 12
 - b. With integrity, we need not be afraid of testing to come...

E. How did David meet this slander?

I. [He Submitted to an Honest Examination \(v2\)](#)

A. Have you ever been eager to take a test?

1. Reluctant?
2. Difference? You were ready for the one...

B. “Lord, examine me...”

1. Used of an assayer of metals...
2. Make diligent search; I am not afraid for you to look.
3. We often tell others, “Do not look at me. Look at Jesus.”
4. David says, “Look at me; see what I am made of.”

C. Prove me, Lord / put me to the test....

1. Are you sure....?

2. God put Abraham to the test.....
 - Joseph
 - Paul
 - Disciples
 - Israel (Deuteronomy 8:2)

And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.

3. Psalm 139:23

23 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:

24 And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

4. “Lord, look at my motives, my heart, my affections.....”
5. First, Honest Examination

II. He Presented A Holy Separation

A. The positive reasons for his confidence: (v.3)

1. Faith...

- (v.1)
- a. David’s walk was based on his trust in the Lord...
 - b. Faith believes God is: (Hebrews 11:6)
 - 1) Believe to see....(Psalm 27:13)

13 I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

14 Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

- 2) Job – “the Lord gave.....”
(Job 1:20-22)

20 Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped,

21 And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.

22 In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.

c. Weathervane –“ God is Good”

- 1) It doesn’t matter which way the wind is blowing.....
- 2) Same with us...

- d. First positive is faith...
2. Obedience
- a. David walked in God's truth...
 - b. "Buy the truth and sell it not..."
(Proverbs 23:23)

23 Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.

- c. Eve began by adding to the truth...
 - d. There is so much falsehood today...
 - e. Reason? (John 8:44)
- B. The negative reasons for David's confidence:
- 1. He did not desire the fellowship of wicked men...(v.4)
 - 2. "Dissemblers" – hypocritical – I do not want their assistance.
 - 3. I want no part of evil doers and I do not worship their idols....(v.5)
 - 4. Psalm 1:1

Psalm 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

- C. He Submitted An Honest Examination
He Presented A Holy Separation

III. He Proclaimed A Happy Celebration (v.6-7)

- A. Consciousness of innocence...
- B. Praise and thanksgiving to God....
- C. His heart is at ease concerning his actions...
(I John 3:24)

24 And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

- D. A plea for remembrance (v.9)
- 1. God knows what we really love in this life...
 - 2. The wicked love the congregation of evil doers...(v.8)
(Psalm 1:5)

5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the

righteous.

6 For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

3. I have dwelled in thy habitation...

- a. His custom.....
- b. Jesus had a custom...Luke 4:16

6 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.

4. I am so thankful for the early teaching and training in my life...

IV. He Demonstrated A Humble Determination (vs.9-12)

A. Gather not my soul with sinners in death, because I have not had fellowship with them in life.

- 1. Sinning has not been my practice in life...
- 2. Violence has not followed me...
- 3. Wicked plans have not filled my hands...
- 4. Money has not been my goal or my god...

a. Job 8:20

Behold, God will not cast away a perfect man, neither will he help the evil doers:

b. Exodus 10:9

And Moses said, We will go with our young and with our old, with our sons and with our daughters, with our flocks and with our herds will we go; for we must hold a feast unto the LORD.

B. "But as for me..."

- 1. I will walk in mine integrity....
- 2. "My foot standeth in an even place..."

a. "even" – means "level."

3. David will bless the Lord before the congregation.

- a. Testify of Him...
- b. We stand in Him and only in Him...