

## **Psalm 17 New International Version**

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### **A prayer of David.**

Hear me, Lord, my plea is just; listen to my cry. Hear my prayer it does not rise from deceitful lips. <sup>2</sup> Let my vindication come from you; may your eyes see what is right.

<sup>3</sup> Though you probe my heart, though you examine me at night and test me, you will find that I have planned no evil; my mouth has not transgressed <sup>4</sup> Though people tried to bribe me,

I have kept myself from the ways of the violent through what your lips have commanded.

<sup>5</sup> My steps have held to your paths; my feet have not stumbled.

<sup>6</sup> I call on you, my God, for you will answer me; turn your ear to me and hear my prayer.

<sup>7</sup> Show me the wonders of your great love, you who save by your right hand those who take refuge in you from their foes. <sup>8</sup> Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings <sup>9</sup> from the wicked who are out to destroy me, from my mortal enemies who surround me.

<sup>10</sup> They close up their callous hearts, and their mouths speak with arrogance. <sup>11</sup> They have tracked me down, they now surround me, with eyes alert, to throw me to the ground.

<sup>12</sup> They are like a lion hungry for prey, like a fierce lion crouching in cover.

<sup>13</sup> Rise up, Lord, confront them, bring them down; with your sword rescue me from the wicked. <sup>14</sup> By your hand save me from such people, Lord, from those of this world whose reward is in this life. May what you have stored up for the wicked fill their bellies;

may their children gorge themselves on it, and may there be leftovers for their little ones <sup>15</sup> As for me, I will be vindicated and will see your face; when I awake, I will be satisfied with seeing your likeness.

### **We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions**

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God's character?

### **David's prayer**

- Can you see the incredible intimacy he has with God?
- Does this reflect the intimacy you have with God when you pray?
- Why does David question himself, regarding God paying attention to him, while he is praying?

- Are there times when we plea and ask God for things and it is not 'just' to do so.
- Who is the one who evaluates whether a prayer is 'just' or not?
- What does it mean to cry out to the Lord?
- Have you ever cried out to the Lord?
- Is David elevating himself as a righteous man who is justified to ask for his prayers to be answered?
- What is it to be vindicated?
- David could see what is right. Can we?
- How do we respond to the examining and probing of our hearts by the Lord?
- David stands back from being corrupted and losing his confidence in God's presence.
- Did David keep to the right path of the Lord and not stumble?
- Have you ever asked God to turn His ear to your prayer?
- David reasons God's favour within himself, by him receiving what he asked for. Is that what we do?
- Do you feel like the apple of God's eye – the Iris?
- What does it mean to be hidden in the shadow of God's wings?
- Who are the wicked who seek to destroy you today?
- Where do you turn when you are engulfed by the enemy?
- Where do you turn in the dread of the night?
- Do you ask for the Lord's intervention?
- Do you believe in a God who saves you from an enemy?
- How do you feel about David's desire to annihilate his enemy?
- Are you looking forward to seeing God in glory?