

Psalm 26 New International Version

Vindicate me, Lord,
for I have led a blameless life;
I have trusted in the Lord
and have not faltered.

² Test me, Lord, and try me,
examine my heart and my mind;

³ for I have always been mindful of your unfailing love
and have lived in reliance on your faithfulness.

⁴ I do not sit with the deceitful,
nor do I associate with hypocrites.

⁵ I abhor the assembly of evildoers
and refuse to sit with the wicked.

⁶ I wash my hands in innocence,
and go about your altar, Lord,

⁷ proclaiming aloud your praise
and telling of all your wonderful deeds.

⁸ Lord, I love the house where you live,
the place where your glory dwells.

⁹ Do not take away my soul along with sinners,
my life with those who are bloodthirsty,

¹⁰ in whose hands are wicked schemes,
whose right hands are full of bribes.

¹¹ I lead a blameless life;
deliver me and be merciful to me.

¹² My feet stand on level ground;
in the great congregation I will praise the Lord.

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?

Paul's Questions and incites

1. Vindicate me means what? To clear someone of blame or suspicion.
2. Vindicate me says David. Why did he feel the need to be vindicated?
3. When he calls God 'Lord' he is coming under God's authority, declaring to God he is in submission to whatever God chooses to do without complaint or reaction.
4. David says 'I have trusted in the Lord' – but not always David! There had been times when David had trusted in the inspirations of the flesh.
5. Can anyone really say they have trusted in the Lord? Had David not faltered.
6. There are somethings we find it hard to trust God for – can you give a list of five?
7. Have you ever asked God to test you as David asked God?
8. Have you ever asked God to examine you and the content of your heart? David is being very brave.
9. What about asking Him to see what is filling up your mind?
10. When you have experienced God's unfailing love it is impossible to turn away from Him – though we fail Him, He will never fail us.
11. There is not much in life that can be relied upon but God is definitely one of them - He cannot be unfaithful.
12. What happens when you spend your time with the deceitful?
13. A hypocrite is one who presents what they are not. Jesus had great problems with hypocrites.
14. What is it to 'abhor evil doers'?
15. The wicked are those who do wrong and enjoy the wrong done.
16. Maybe David could justify himself with regards to not doing these wrong things, but not in everything.
17. To wash his hands is to not be connected or responsible, just like Pilate in the courtyard.
18. David was a proclaimer of God with praise and telling of God's deeds. There are many Psalms to verify this.
19. David loved God's temple, city and people.
20. Do you love His presence, His body and His purposes?
21. To ask God to redeem his soul was a brave request even though he knew he had sinned.
22. David's perspective of his sins were less than others – was he right?
23. Was David blameless or was he blind?

24. 'None so blind as they that cannot see'.
25. Gods mercy is a constant means of recovery in the Old Testament journey.
26. What is it to stand on level ground?

David did know how to praise God!