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## Psalm 26: Of David.

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**Psalm 26**  
**Of David.**  
(NRSV)

- <sup>1</sup> **Vindicate me, O LORD,  
for I have walked in my integrity,  
and I have trusted in the LORD without wavering.**
- <sup>2</sup> **Prove me, O LORD, and try me;  
test my heart and mind.**
- <sup>3</sup> **For your steadfast love is before my eyes,  
and I walk in faithfulness to you.** <sup>(a)</sup>
- <sup>4</sup> **I do not sit with the worthless,  
nor do I consort with hypocrites;**
- <sup>5</sup> **I hate the company of evildoers,  
and will not sit with the wicked.**
- <sup>6</sup> **I wash my hands in innocence,  
and go around your altar, O LORD,**
- <sup>7</sup> **singing aloud a song of thanksgiving,  
and telling all your wondrous deeds.**
- <sup>8</sup> **O LORD, I love the house in which you dwell,  
and the place where your glory abides.**
- <sup>9</sup> **Do not sweep me away with sinners,  
nor my life with the bloodthirsty,**
- <sup>10</sup> **those in whose hands are evil devices,  
and whose right hands are full of bribes.**
- <sup>11</sup> **But as for me, I walk in my integrity;  
redeem me, and be gracious to me.**
- <sup>12</sup> **My foot stands on level ground;  
in the great congregation I will bless the LORD.**

**Footnote:**

a. (v.1) Or *in your faithfulness*

**Psalm 26** David insists that he is blameless of the unspecified wrongs he is accused of doing. He is vigorous in protesting his innocence, and he invites the LORD to test even his heart and mind (verse 2). The protest of innocence and the coming into the temple is reflective of the practice of those falsely accused who would seek vindication in the temple

as provided and described in 1 Kings 8:31-32. Verse 6 apparently refers to a ritual washing of the hands to reinforce an oath of innocence (compare Deuteronomy 21:6-7, Psalm 73:13, Matthew 27:24).

We human beings might be able to rightly claim a relative innocence in human affairs. But it is not possible for us to claim innocence before God; only Christ can make that claim. So when we pray this Psalm, we think of Christ, the sinless Lamb of God slain for our sins, and we pray this Psalm in Christ, for we can stand before God only when we are clothed in his righteousness.

There is one further clue that this Psalm belongs to great David's Greater Son. Luke 2 records the story of how the 12-year old Jesus stayed in the Temple in Jerusalem after his parents had started their journey back to Nazareth. When his mother Mary chided him for causing her such anxiety, he replied, "Did you not know that I must be in my Father's House?" Jesus was echoing verse 8: "LORD, I love the house in which you dwell, and the place where your glory abides." And when we pray this Psalm, we share Christ's love for the house of the LORD.

**Prayer to accompany Psalm 26:**

Lord Jesus, you are the Lamb without stain and the image of the Father's glory. Give us the strength to avoid sin and to be faithful to you always. Lead us to the place where God dwells in glory, that we may praise Him with joy among His saints now and forever. Amen.

**Linger longer over verse 8:**

**O LORD, I love the house in which you dwell,  
and the place where your glory abides.**