

PRAYING PSALM 25

“According to your mercy remember me...” (Psalm 25:7).

Beginning with Psalm 25, nine consecutive psalms constitute a series of pleas for mercy.

There are three parts to this psalm. 1. PETITIONS TO GOD (1-7). Let me not be ashamed (2). Let not my enemies triumph over me (2). Let no one who waits on you be ashamed (3). Let those be ashamed who deal treacherously without cause (3). Show me your ways (4). Lead me in your truth and teach me (5). Remember your tender mercies and lovingkindness (6). Do not remember the sins of my youth. 2. PROCLAMATIONS OF GOD’S ATTRIBUTES (8-11). He is good (8). He guides and teaches the humble in justice (9). He guides in mercy and truth (10). PRAYERS FOR GOD’S DELIVERANCE (12-22). Turn Yourself to me and have mercy on me (16). Bring me out of my distresses (17). Look on my affliction and pain (18). Forgive my sins (18). Let integrity and uprightness preserve me (21).

The psalm makes several references to shame. Shame differs from guilt. Guilt comes from doing wrong. Shame comes from believing there is something wrong with me. The answer to both is the mercy of God. “He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy” (Proverbs 28:13).