

“To justify” or “to declare innocent” (Greek, *dikiaoō*) in Luke and the wider Septuagint: some examples

Luke	
7.29	(And all the people who heard this, including the tax collectors, acknowledged the justice [edikaiōsan] of God, because they had been baptized with John's baptism.
7.35	“...wisdom is vindicated [edikaiōthē] by all her children.”
10.29	But wanting to justify [dikaiōsai] himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"
16.15	So he said to them, "You are those who justify [dikaiountes] yourselves in the sight of others; but God knows your hearts; for what is prized by human beings is an abomination in the sight of God.”
18.14	I tell you, this man went down to his home justified [dedikaiōmenos] rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."
Acts	
13.38-39	Let it be known to you therefore, my brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you; by this Jesus everyone who believes is set free [dikaiōthēnai] from all those sins from which you could not be freed [dikaioutai] by the law of Moses.
A few examples from the Septuagint (of 52 uses total in the LXX)	
<i>Note: dikiaoō in the Pentateuch only at Gen 38.26; 44.16; Exodus 23.7 and Deuteronomy 25.1; in the Deuteronomistic History beyond Deuteronomy, only 2 Samuel 15.4 and 1 Kings 8.32; contrast 11 times in Sirach and 8 times in the Psalms of Solomon (both late compositions)</i>	
Ezekiel 16.51-53	Samaria has not committed half your sins; you have committed more abominations than they, and have made your sisters appear righteous [edikaiōsas] by all the abominations that you have committed. Bear your disgrace, you also, for you have brought about for your sisters a more favorable judgment; because of your sins in which you acted more abominably than they, they are more in the right [edikaiōsas] than you. So be ashamed, you also, and bear your disgrace, for you have made your sisters appear righteous [dikaiōsai] . I will restore their fortunes, the fortunes of Sodom and her daughters and the fortunes of Samaria and her daughters, and I will restore your own fortunes along with theirs...
Isaiah 1.16-17	Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead [dikaiōsate] for the widow.
Micah 6.11	“Can I tolerate wicked scales and a bag of dishonest [dikiaōthēsetai] weights?”
Psalm 73.13	All in vain have I kept my heart clean and washed my hands in innocence [edikaiōsa] .
Sirach 1.22	Unrighteous anger cannot be justified [diakiōthēnai] ...