

Search Me, O God, and Know My Heart - Psalms 139 **Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading**

Notes from the Sermon

Psalm 139 has been used as a key passage in the Right for Life campaign, and it well should be. This glorious song written by David praises God for His glorious presence, power, and care that reaches back to the moment of his conception and promises the same until the day of his death. Verses 14-16 give a vivid picture of God's intricate involvement in forming David while still in his mother's womb, and reveals that the glory of his full humanity in the image of God is present at the moment of conception. Man is not just the most highly evolved animal, there is great care in the formation of the first man and woman, but also in the formation of each after. This passage should leave no question on this issue, and the truth is that since the horrible Roe vs. Wade decision science is actually pretty clear on this question as well. Life, human life exists in the womb, so to take that life is a horrible sin against the person and God who is the author of life. This Psalm helps us see that life from womb to tomb is precious, valued, beautiful, and meaningful. So we are unashamedly pro-life and will stand for justice both for the unborn and the born. As I mentioned last week, life is a justice issue, and justice is a life issue. So it seem incongruous to stand for justice while not opposing abortion, and it is equally incongruous to stand for life and go silent when speaking about justice for the poor, oppressed, marginalized and even the aged.

But the reason this Psalm speaks so clearly to this issue is because David is applying the great doctrines of God to himself as a person in covenant with Jehovah God. David wrote this song out of a time of personal threat and danger. Wicked people pursued him and sought to end his life, and those same evil people stood opposed to God and His Kingdom. David is living in fear, yet he writes a song that is a morning reminder that God has not forgotten him and is still for him. In fact, the key to the Psalm is the second phrase in verse 18 which serves as a transition from the first three verses which praise God for His care and involvement to the last verse which cries to God to whack His enemies. But the transition speaks of waking up in the morning. Here's the idea, he wakes up, nothing has changed. Life is hard, enemies exist, he will have to fight to stay alive that day and eventually find a safe place to sleep that night. But he woke up, and if he woke up God has not abandoned him and is not done with David as yet. So the song becomes both a prayer of praise for this truth and a cry for God to act in defense of His Kingdom.

So the Psalm deals with some of the great theological truths we find in Scripture about the One True and Living God. It delves into the great "Omnis" of God, his omniscience (God has all wisdom), omnipresence (God is present in all places and times), and omnipotence (God is able to whatever pleases Him). God's knowledge, presence, and power are the source of His sovereign rule over all things and are the source of His glory. Yet, knowing these truths of theology can come with an inherit danger. They are concepts which, as David says, are "Too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain it." If we are not careful the truths about God become abstract realitiies way outside of us, and often in our minds make God wonderful but irrelevant. God is transcendent, meaning way above and beyond all that we can know, think, or be, and our minds can be blown. Yet, we wake up and those ideas are distant and bizarre, so we go about our lives without knowing what this means for me in the moment. This is why we need to know and even sing this Psalm (or songs like it). It is a reminder that the transcendent God has chosen to move toward us, to know us, and is intricately involved in the lives of His people out of His great love for them. God is not onnly omniscient, He knows me (v. 1-6). God is not only omnipresent, He is with me in His covenant love (v. 7-12). Even if I try to run and hide, He

is there and does not give up on me. Not only is God omnipotent, His glorious power is the source of my very life, the reason I take the next breath, and guarantees my existence until He has determined it is time for me to come home to Him (v. 13-17). The last six verses then are David's cry to this God out of distress and anguish. They are what we call an imprecatory Psalm, and since I have run out of space I won't deal in detail with this here. But look for a blog post on the Genesis blog this week about these Psalms and whether we should include them in our prayers. But for now, if you are a child of God, and you woke up this morning the great truths of this wonderful song are yours. Read them, proclaim them, praise your Creator for them, and even sing them!

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Psalm 144	Psalm 145	Psalm 146	Psalm 147	Psalm 148	Psalm 149	Psalm 150

Reading from this past week: Psalm 139

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Psalm 51

Family Worship

Song - *Rejoice*

<https://youtu.be/7Qy1iXZU2g>

Gospel Project

Story: The Good News

Story Point: God sent Jesus into the world to rescue sinners.

Big Picture Question: What is the church?

Answer: The church is all Christians everywhere, who gather together in their communities to worship and serve God.

Scripture: Romans 5-6

New City Catechism

Question #4: How and why did God create us?

Answer: God created us male and female in his own image to glorify him.

Verse: Genesis 1:27

Scripture

Psalm 139

- Does the idea that God has searched you and knows you, knows every detail about you give you hope or make you nervous? Why?
- What are two or three phrases from this Psalm that fill your tank right now?
- Why is it important for us to remember both the transcendence (His greatness, sovereignty, the omnis), and the immanence (God's closeness in relationship and care for us and creation) of God? What happens if we overemphasize one at the expense of the other?

Prayer

*Pray for the issue of life, that God would change the heart of our country on the issue of abortion. Also, pray for the success of our Baby Bottle Campaign and for Thrive.

*Pray for the members of Genesis as we renew our commitment to one another.