

Series: *Praying and Living Through the Psalms*

Sermon: Freedom of Being Known

Text: *Psalm 139*

Preacher: *Danny Mitchell*

Introductory questions -

Every person desires to be known and at the same time every person fears being known. That's what we find in the creation account. Read Genesis 1 and 2.

- 1) One of God's first attributes we come across in the creation account is his relational nature. Because He is a relational God, we were created to be relational beings, placed in a net of relationships. What relationships do you see being formed in these chapters?
- 2) After Adam and Eve sinned, they tried to hide their nakedness from each other with fig leaves, then tried to hide from God behind a bush, and finally tried to hide their sin. Why did Adam and Eve try to hide? How does fear, and ultimately sin, impact relationships?

Read Psalm 139 and consider -

- 1) David's declaration - why do we struggle with the idea of being truly known by someone? Why do we feel like we need to control what people think of us? How do you attempt to hide our shame and shape our self-image?
- 1) David's invitation - what does it take to really get to know someone? Have you ever had someone who knows you better than you know yourself? Who knows you best now?

Reflection questions -

- 1) How is the character of God depicted in this Psalm?
- 2) What does God know based on verses 1-6? How do you feel about God's complete knowledge of you? Does that truth make you feel secure or threatened?
- 3) In verse 7, the Psalmist reflects on the fact that we can not "get away" from God. How does that make you feel? What do you do to sometimes hold God at a distance?
- 4) The Psalmist in this song asks the Lord to "search him and know his heart" (v.23). In other words, "to come in like a bloodhound dog and sniff all his junk out." What does the Psalmist have in mind with such request?
- 5) In verse 24, David prays that the Lord would lead him away from "his junk." What motivates such prayer? Have you prayed that before? What are the things stored up in your heart that prevents you from passionately pursuing the Lord?

Prayer -

"Lord, with the Psalmist we pray, 'Search me and know my heart.' We confess that we fear being truly know and we confess the many fig leaves we use to hide our shame. We ask that you would unmask us through your love and cloth us with your righteousness, setting our feet firmly on the ground in which you rebuilt our true selves - the righteousness of your son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. It's in his name that we pray. Amem."