

Message Extras

a little something extra to keep you connected to Jesus this week

Message Extras accompany the [weekly message](#).

We live in a time where nothing seems too personal to post on social media or other internet venues like blogs or personal pages. Reality TV captures deeply personal triumphs, heartaches, or even embarrassing moments. These are so personal that we believe we know these people intimately and with deep familiarity. We post pictures on our Instagram or Facebook accounts so friends and family can comment and feel like they are part of our everyday lives. Despite all of this connectivity, we Americans report, in staggering numbers, how lonely, disconnected, and depressed we feel.

Recently, I went to visit my friend of almost 30 years. We met in high school and have been best friends ever since. We have shared some very important years of our development and many milestones in our lives. We know each other's families; have seen each other through hardships; and have celebrated beautiful moments together. She really KNOWS me. So, after dinner one evening, we were sitting on her couch chatting about how to design a deck in the back of their house. We were looking over each other's shoulders at our phones for pictures of decks we liked or stains that would match her house. We were laughing and carrying on like we always do in a sort of sacred familiarity. We looked down at ourselves and we were sitting so close together that one of her legs was under me and my arm was around her shoulders just like when we were kids. That's intimacy. To be known so well, accepted no matter what, and to be loved anyway is the deep desire of every human being. I believe God himself placed that desire in our hearts so that we would seek Him to fulfill it.

David had this deep desire for connection with God. In fact, he is described as "a man after God's own heart". Psalm 139 gives us a beautiful glimpse at David's relationship with God and teaches us some of God's holy characteristics in the process. Here are four of them:

- 1- God is **omniscient** (knows all),
- 2- God is **omnipresent** (is everywhere),
- 3- God is **omnipotent** (all powerful),
- 4- God is **intimate** and **familiar** (nothing is too personal for God).

Intimate: an interpersonal state of extreme emotional closeness such that each party's personal space can be entered by any of the other parties without causing discomfort to that person.

Familiar: one who is often seen and well known, an intimate associate or companion, one who is well acquainted with something, one who frequents a place, having personal or intimate knowledge, informal.

In Psalm 139:1-4 David describes how God knows everything about him. He knows where David goes, when he wakes, when he lies down, what he thinks and what he is going to say before he even says it. That's omniscience but when it is applied in a relationship it can be referred to as intimacy and familiarity. That closeness, finishing each other's sentences, laughing without saying a word. THAT'S how God knows us!

In verses 7-12, David goes on to tell us about God's omnipresence. He is always with us and never leaves us even when we try to leave or hide from Him. He is everywhere. The more time we spend with a person, the more familiar we become with them. The more we understand their moods, their likes and dislikes, their idiosyncrasies, the way they like their coffee. My husband brews coffee every day and will serve me a cup just the way I like it without asking me how I take my coffee. He is familiar with me. God knows every detail of who we are.

God is also all powerful or omnipotent. He is the creator of our intricate bodies and the author of each of our lives. If He can create life from nothing then He can do anything. As a nurse, I marvel at God's creation everyday. With every scientific advancement I am amazed at how the body can work together so seamlessly and yet fall apart if only one little gene or cell structure is out of place. How wonderful are your works, Lord! (v.14).

David doesn't stop here, he then tells us how God has orchestrated and authored each of our days before He formed us in our mothers' wombs. If you have ever had the opportunity to create something or organize an event then you know how quickly you become the expert of that particular thing. You have gone over every detail a million times to make sure it is efficient and that it functions or flows well. If anyone has a question about it, you are the one with the answer. This is how God knows us, as our creator and organizer. He has intimate knowledge about how we were created and how we are organized and what our function is. He's the expert on all things _____, write your name in the blank!

Finally, in verses 17-24 we get a taste of the relational way in which David interacts with God. He cherishes God's thoughts and their immensity (v.17). He can't believe the Lord

remains with Him through the night as he sleeps (v.18). He gets angry and protective towards those who hate the Lord. Don't we do this as well? Do we not fiercely defend our family if someone wishes them ill or openly hates them? Or if someone hurts one of our children? GRRR! (v.19-22). However, we must refrain from using these verses as a weapon toward those who disagree with our values. Our enemies are not people but the "spiritual forces of evil" (Eph 6:12). Jesus spoke of loving our neighbors AND our enemies. And finally, in verses 23-24, we see David's trust, complete surrender and devotion to God, and his desire to please only Him:

"Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!"

So, in closing, I leave you with this thought:

The God who knows all...

The God who is everywhere at all times...

The God who is all-powerful...

The God who knows us deeply, intimately, and is entirely familiar with who we are... The God who also knew everything we were ever going to say or do before he created each of us...

...is the same God who STILL chose to die on the cross in our place because He STILL loves us, STILL wants us as His children, STILL prepares a place for us, STILL forgives us. What an amazing God we serve.

Questions for discussion:

- 1) What did Psalm 139 show you about who God is?
- 2) What feelings are stirred up by knowing God is everywhere you are and never leaves you? Is it comforting? Is it off-putting?
- 3) How do you think Psalm 139 applies to abortion?
- 4) David wanted God to kill the people who hated the Lord. Is this righteous or unrighteous anger? Have you ever asked God to punish people?

