

## **PSALM 139: Our Great Big God knows us**

**Big Idea:** Knowing that our great big God knows us brings comfort and zeal for Him.

Who is your best friend? Your bestie? Spend some time thinking about them. What makes them your best friend?

I'm guessing there could be lots of reasons why...you have similar interests, they make you laugh, they are loyal or they love you.

But if we dig deeper we will see that the main reason our best friend is the best is because they know us...and we know them. They get you.

There are lots of people that like the same things as you. There are lots of funny people out there.

There are lots of loyal, trustworthy and honest people out there. And you probably have a number of people who love you.

But you only have one best friend. One person who really gets you. Someone who seems to read your mind sometimes.

Someone who sometimes makes you feel completely exposed because they know you so well.

They finish your sentences, they know just what to say when you are feeling down. They suggest your ideas without you having to say anything.

You have a friend like that I'm sure. It's a great joy isn't it? I hope you thank God for them regularly.

There is something really special about being known by someone. We have all been created relational.

We all crave relationship. We all desire to be understood and loved for who we are. We all desire to love and be loved.

Tonight as we end our series in the Psalms we finish with another magnificent Psalm that will once again showcase our great big God.

Tonight we will be reflecting on our great big God who knows us, pursues us and made us. Then we will finish with our response to all this.

Firstly let's spend some time reflecting on our first truth tonight...

## **1. Our great big God knows us**

Follow with me as I read from v1-6 again...

**For the choir director. A psalm of David.**

**<sup>1</sup> LORD, you have searched me and known me.**

**<sup>2</sup> You know when I sit down and when I stand up; you understand my thoughts from far away.**

**<sup>3</sup> You observe my travels and my rest; you are aware of all my ways.**

**<sup>4</sup> Before a word is on my tongue, you know all about it, LORD.**

**<sup>5</sup> You have encircled me; you have placed your hand on me.**

**<sup>6</sup> This wondrous knowledge is beyond me. It is lofty; I am unable to reach it.**

As David reflects on his relationship with God, he recognises how deeply he is known by God.

God knows everything there is to know about David. God knows everything David does.

Even the normal everyday things of sitting down and standing up.

God also knows his thoughts. God is invested in David's life. God even observes David's travels and rest.

There is nothing God doesn't know about David. God is a bit like a parent who stalks their kid over social media.

The parent observes their kid to ensure they are alright and safe and because they love their kid.

I'm sure we can all relate to this description in some way or the other. A parent that is invested in us and knows all our ways.

Often when I was younger I thought I hid some of the stupid things I grew up, but my mom always knew.

Parents have a sixth sense that just knows. They can take one look at us and know.

They can tell when we are sad, angry, happy or caught on some or other nonsense.

It's quite scary how they know. David has this experience with God. As he goes on in v4 he says God even knows the words on his tongue before he says it.

David can't surprise God, God knows him deeply, God knows him better than he knows himself.

God has encircled him and cares for him. David is completely blown away by God's deep knowledge of him.

David says in v6 that our great big God's wondrous knowledge is beyond him, he is unable to reach it.

As he recognises the depth of God's knowledge for him...it's intense.

It's quite amazing to find a best friend that connects with you and knows you very well.

But it's intense to know that someone knows everything about you...everything.

There is nothing our great big God does not know about us. He knows every action, every thought and every word.

Let that soak in for a moment or two. We can hide from the people around us, we can even hide from our besties...we may even be hiding from ourselves.

But we can't hide from God. We can try...but that's like trying to time travel...it's impossible.

How does this make you feel? Does it terrify you? Or does it bring you wonder like it did for David?

Our great big God knows us, like really knows us  
and as we continue we see that...

## **2. Our great big God pursues us**

Follow with me as I read from v7...

**<sup>7</sup> Where can I go to escape your Spirit?**

**Where can I flee from your presence?**

**<sup>8</sup> If I go up to heaven, you are there;  
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.**

**<sup>9</sup> If I live at the eastern horizon  
or settle at the western limits,**

**<sup>10</sup> even there your hand will lead me;  
your right hand will hold on to me.**

**<sup>11</sup> If I say, “Surely the darkness will hide me,  
and the light around me will be night” —**

**<sup>12</sup> even the darkness is not dark to you.**

**The night shines like the day;  
darkness and light are alike to you.**

As David continues to reflect on his relationship with God he realises there is no escaping our great big God.

No matter how high, low or wide he goes God will always be there. God is everywhere.

That may sound a little bit creepy to you, like God is a creep that won't let us be.

But have a look at v10. God is leading David and holding David. It's not that David is creeped out by God being everywhere.

Rather he is comforted by this fact. God is everywhere and so no matter where David goes God will pursue him and guide him.

Not even the darkness can hide David from God. Darkness is like light to God, because he is light...in him there is no darkness.

With our world shrinking through travel becoming easier and more frequent we may at some point have had to leave loved ones behind.

Family members and besties. When we did it was tough we missed them and wished they were still around.

Phone calls and skype only does so much. It's much better having the person around. After a tough day getting a hug from a loved one is such a comfort.

Unfortunately our close relationships can't be everywhere. But as David points out to us here in this section...God can...God is.

No matter where we are no matter what is going on in our lives...our joys, our sorrows even in our deepest darkness like Ps88, God is right there with us.

Like the famous footprints poem we might not always know that or feel like he is...but he is.

In fact it's in our toughest, darkest and most difficult times that God is not only with us, but leading us and carrying us with his light.

There is no where we can go in our lives that God won't pursue us. We can do our best to forget him or remove him from our lives...but God will still be there.

If you don't know God, or you don't yet have this relationship with him...this is quite terrifying.

You can choose to ignore God, ignore his word, ignore his truth and ignore his existence...but that doesn't stop him from being everywhere.

A great big God that is everywhere is terrifying if you hate him and want nothing to do with him.

Because there is coming a day soon when that is exactly what you will get.

An eternity without our great big God who is good, loving and wise. An eternity of suffering and punishment.

The pains in this world are only small pictures of the pains to come. The great news for you tonight is that God is still pursuing you.

God hasn't given up on you yet...and he won't until this world comes to an end. Turn to him tonight.

For those of us who do know our great big God, this can be quite overwhelming, but it is so comforting.

Our great big God pursues us, he is everywhere, he knows us and watches over us.

No matter how alone we may feel, no matter  
how tough life gets.

Our great big God is with us, pursuing us and  
watching over us and most of the time carrying  
us.

Amazing isn't it? Why does God care about us so  
much, how does he know us so well and why  
does he pursue us?

As we move on we see that's because...

### **3. Our great big God made us**

Follow with me as I read from v13...

**<sup>13</sup> For it was you who created my inward parts;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.**

**<sup>14</sup> I will praise you  
because I have been remarkably and  
wondrously made.**

**Your works are wondrous,  
and I know this very well.**

**<sup>15</sup> My bones were not hidden from you  
when I was made in secret,  
when I was formed in the depths of the earth.**

**<sup>16</sup> Your eyes saw me when I was formless;  
all my days were written in your book and  
planned  
before a single one of them began. <sup>17</sup> God, how  
precious your thoughts are to me;  
how vast their sum is!**

**<sup>18</sup> If I counted them,  
they would outnumber the grains of sand;  
when I wake up, I am still with you.**

Our great big God made us, he is the giver of life.  
There is such great imagery here.

God knit us together, we were not hidden from  
him, he saw us before we were formed and had a  
plan for us before we were born.

Brothers and sisters our God is big, he is great.  
How incredible is it to know your life had  
meaning before you existed?

Our great big God knew who you would become,  
who would become your bestie.

God knows when you sit down and stand up  
because he made us. Our great big God really  
knows us, we are his creation.

As we have previously reflected in other  
Psalms...who is like our God?

Our great big God has given us life, he has known  
us before we were alive, he has given us free will  
and yet he still knows everything about us.

In fact it was planned before we were born. In a  
world that is lost and broken and filled with  
people trying to find identity.

Psalm 139 reminds us that our identity is only found in our creator. Our great big God made us, he gives us life.

Life matters, our lives matter, the unborn babies life matters...because God has a plan for them...it's written in his book.

I remember in grade 10 in biology as we were learning about the human body we watched a video on child birth.

We saw a woman puffing and pushing and sweating...I remember thinking to myself there is no way they would show the actual birthing process...

I was wrong in an unsuspecting moment the camera moved to the women's open legs and a baby came out.

I remember all the boys gasping...oh my word and clutching between their legs...while all the girls going ah...how beautiful.

Now that I am more mature...well at least older I can see the girls were right. As painful and unflattering as child birth is, it is incredible.

From the time the egg is first fertilised to the scans and eventually to birth and as your child grows...it is beautiful.

It's a miracle. A complex crazy miracle. A human grows inside of your tummy. I mean how amazing is that.

I'm sure all parents, birth or adopted can agree that this is incredible. Then there is the miracle of watching your little one grow.

Grow from a very cute eating, sleeping and pooping machine, to a walking and talking actual human who interacts with the world around them.

Our great big God made us this way. In fact he came up with the whole process. How incredible is he?

That's why he knows us better than we know ourselves and why he pursues us because God made us. He formed us and gave us life.

We are to see him like any loving parent who loves their child unconditionally. Who sees their child and knows them.

Who pursues their child and will do all they can to protect their child.

Our great big God knows us.

Our great big God knows you.

You are known by our great big God.

How does that make you feel? Stop for a moment and let that soak in.

It's no wonder David says in v17 that God's thoughts are precious to him and that they would outnumber the grains of sand.

God knows us, God pursues us, God made us and God loves us. If you are feeling lost, or broken or unloved I think you would struggle to find words more profound than these.

True words, words that show you that you have value in God. That you are not an accident, that you are not insignificant.

Words that show you your life matters.

Your creator knows you, he pursues you, he made you, you have purpose.

Our world is lost and broken because they have turned away from this truth. Our city is in chaos because they have turned away and ignored these truths.

You may be burnt out or on the way, you may be depressed, anxious or just going through the motions.

Don't ignore this truth, don't forget this truth. Preach this truth to yourself as often as you can. Your great big God knows you...he knows you.

Your great big God is with you, he is pursuing you in whatever situation you find yourself tonight.

Your great big God made you who you are, he planned your life before you existed.

It is profound, it is breath-taking and if you are like me it hurts your head a little bit.

I don't know about you but this makes me feel really special and loved in a way I have never experienced before.

It's the love I feel from my bestest but times a billion. Let's move on to our last point tonight which is...

#### **4. Zeal for our great big God**

Follow with me as I read from v19...

**<sup>19</sup> God, if only you would kill the wicked—  
you bloodthirsty men, stay away from me—  
<sup>20</sup> who invoke you deceitfully.**

**Your enemies swear by you falsely.**

**<sup>21</sup> LORD, don't I hate those who hate you,  
and detest those who rebel against you?**

**<sup>22</sup> I hate them with extreme hatred;**

**I consider them my enemies. <sup>23</sup> Search me, God,  
and know my heart;  
test me and know my concerns.  
<sup>24</sup> See if there is any offensive way in me;  
lead me in the everlasting way.**

Wow that took a quick turn. David went from a really beautiful Psalm reflecting his amazing relationship with God to a very intense and dark request for God to kill the wicked.

How did that happen? How did he get here? It may seem out of place. But considering David's amazing relationship with God it actually makes sense.

David loves God, David strives to love God as much as he is loved by God. David lives for God.

When people turn against God it offends him.

This might seem quite intense to us, and maybe a bit over the top. We could make ourselves feel a little better by saying it's poetry.

Poetry often exaggerates things and makes them more intense...there is some truth to that. But before we ignore David's words here...let's unpack them.

At the start and throughout this sermon I have asked you to think about your best friend, your bestie.

You have been reflecting on all the joys they bring to your life, all the happiness and comfort they bring.

They are a real blessing to us. But now think about how you feel when someone attacks your bestie?

How do you feel when someone says your best friend is dumb, or treats them unfairly or actively seeks to hurt them?

I know when people attack my friends, especially my bestest I go on the attack. I strive to defend them, to seek justice for them.

I know who they are and when their character is attacked or their being I am angered for them and with them.

As David reflects on how our Great big God knows him, pursues him and made him.

As he starts to drift off into the amazingness that is God...he can't help but remember the wicked.

The wicked are those who stand against God.  
They want nothing to do with God.

They stand opposed to God and want nothing to do with him. They spread lies about him. They attack his character.

They mislead people and worse still they do evil claiming to do it in the name of God.

David is zealous for God. He has righteous anger on God's behalf. He can't stand these wicked people who would blatantly attack his great big God.

David in these closing verses wears his heart on his sleeve. He loves God so much...therefore he extremely hates God's enemies.

Today these wicked people are still around there are still people who detest and rebel against God.

There are still people who claim to be doing God's work and yet are leading people away from God to hell.

How do we feel about that? Are we outraged like David is?

Or do we just accept what's going on? The wicked in our world are killing little babies who are completely defenceless.

The wicked hate our old people and see them as an inconvenience and want to get rid of them.

The wicked abuse, beat, rape and murder our women and children.

The wicked discriminate and murder people who are different to them because of skin colour.

The wicked do this because they want nothing to do with God, in their corrupted minds they are god.

Our great big God doesn't exist in their world. Therefore people don't matter to them they only think of themselves.

As we have been reflecting over these past two weeks with the violence against our women and the attacks on the foreigners in our country...I hope you felt angry.

I hope you felt the pain our people felt. I hope you reflected on these pains. I hope you didn't just ignore the sadness and heart ache that surrounded you.

The book of Psalms teaches us to feel our emotions.

Not to run away from our emotions or bottle them up. But the book of Psalms also teaches us to never let our emotions take over our knowledge of God.

As we reflect on the wicked and the turbulence our country has gone through and feel those very real and raw emotions.

We must never forget God. That's why David ends the Psalm as he does.

Have a look at v23 and 24 again...

**<sup>23</sup> Search me, God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my concerns.**

**<sup>24</sup> See if there is any offensive way in me;  
lead me in the everlasting way.**

David remembers that he has the potential to be just like the wicked in every way.

David asks God to keep him on track, to lead him in his ways. David loves our great big God and wants to live his life for him.

David trusts God and has faith in God's plan for him. David is known by our great big God and this drives him.

As we reflect on our country and our own personal struggles, v23 and 24 of this Psalm are helpful reflectors.

Knowing God and being known by God should drive us not our emotions which chop and change.

We must feel and we must engage our emotions, but they shouldn't rule us. God's given us emotions to express them not to be crippled by them.

As we live out these truths in our lives we must never forget the gospel. We were lost, broken and against God.

We were the wicked, but in God's grace, mercy and love he pursued us and provided his one and only Son Jesus Christ to save us.

In Christ's death, God's wrath has been dealt with once and for all. We have new life, our relationship with God has been restored.

We have eternity waiting for us. Eternity is where we will be with God forever.

Our great big God knows you and me. The question I leave you with is do you know him?

John 3:36 says this...

**<sup>36</sup> The one who believes in the Son has eternal life, but the one who rejects the Son will not see life; instead, the wrath of God remains on him.**

Do you believe? Do you believe that God knows you, pursues you and made you?

Turn to him tonight accept him, you will receive eternal life. If not know that God's wrath remains on you...because that's what you chose.

Time for reflection...prayer.