

EAST GLENVILLE CHURCH – SERMON NOTES HANDOUT – AUGUST 2ND 2020

Pastor Mitch Sermon – Psalm 139 – Where can I go from your Spirit?

Psalm 139 How do we pray when God _____ us better than we do ourselves?

People seek to project a certain _____ of themselves, but God sees past the outward façade and into the depths of our heart.

So how do you react to the truth that God knows you so deeply? Does it scare you?

Unlike the gods of the ancient world, God is two things:

God is _____: Before the universe existed He was, and is and is to come.

God is completely _____: No matter where you are God is there.

Is there any place where God is not? --- Yes! But it was created for a special _____.
See Matthew 25:41.

What implications do you find in 139:13-16 for Christians and our interaction with the world?

Why does David sound so vehement in 139:19-22? What is going on in these verses?

First – An _____ Prayer

David brings his true feelings to God about people who do _____.

Second – An Expression of _____

David makes it clear he is on the Lord's side against those who _____ God.

Third – Hate the sin but not the _____.

God does want His People to hate and work against evil and _____.

v. 23-24 - God knows better than us about what needs _____ within our own heart!

Can you give an example from your prayer life?

Would you be willing to commit these verses to memory and pray them regularly?

23 Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.

24 See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

*** Psalm 139** - *For the director of music. Of David. A psalm.*

1 You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.

2 You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.

3 You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.

4 Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely.

5 You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me.

6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

7 Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

8 If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

9 If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,

10 even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

11 If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,"

12 even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day,
for darkness is as light to you.

13 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.

15 My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place,
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.

16 Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book
before one of them came to be.

17 How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them!

18 Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand— when I awake, I am still
with you.

19 If only you, God, would slay the wicked! Away from me, you who are bloodthirsty!

20 They speak of you with evil intent; your adversaries misuse your name.

21 Do I not hate those who hate you, Lord, and abhor those who are in rebellion against you?

22 I have nothing but hatred for them; I count them my enemies.

23 Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.

24 See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

You Carried Me: A Daughter's Memoir

By Melissa Ohden

This morning I plan to share the story of Melissa Ohden which is found in her book, *You Carried Me*. I use several quotes from the book, and I know it might be difficult to follow long quotes, and so I am printing them here to make them easier to follow along as I read them.

Page 23 - I sat for a moment in utter disbelief – how was this even possible? And then I fell into my mom's arms and sobbed. My tears gave way to questions, but Mom had very few answers. She knew only the barest outline: she'd been told that my birth mother had an abortion at St. Luke's Hospital in Sioux City and that my body had been laid aside on the assumption that I was dead or dying, but a nurse heard me whimper, realized I was alive, and saved my life. Those facts didn't satisfy; I wanted to know why not how!

Page 31 - To everyone, "I seemed happy, healthy, hardworking, and well-liked. To my parents I was the perfect child- responsible, obedient, successful. They were amazed and relieved by how well I had handled the terrible truth they had shared with me."

Page 37 - I began to cling to Jesus in prayer, and as I did, I felt the guilt and shame and self-loathing that had defined me for so long begin to slip away. I still felt deeply damaged, though, like the psalmist who wrote, "I know my transgressions; my sin is ever before me" Slowly, with God's grace, I was able to turn my gaze from my inward pain and look anew on the world around me.

Page 112 - Mahatma Gandhi once said, "Forgiveness is a virtue of the brave." But I think the truly brave are those who ask for forgiveness. We all need to be forgiven! Everywhere I went it seemed I met someone who was suffering because they desperately wanted to ask forgiveness from a child whose death from abortion they had somehow helped to cause. I came to understand that part of my mission was to be a voice of forgiveness to them.

Melissa's Confirmation Bible memory verse:

Jeremiah 1:5 - "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

Fill-in-the-blank Answers:

- Knows
- Image
- Transcendent
- Imminent
- Purpose
- Honest
- Loyalty
- Sinner
- Fixed