



TRACK 7: SEARCH ME

Sermon Notes

Text: Psalm 139

Introduction:

It's human nature to be defensive about the things you are passionate about. In Psalm 139, King David displays a fragile passion. He gets all worked up and excited about his love for God, then explodes with zeal against God's enemies.

1. You know me

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

v. 13,14 "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well."

"To be loved but not known is comforting but superficial. To be known and not loved is our greatest fear. But to be fully known and truly loved is...what we need more than anything" ~Tim Keller

2. You're with me

v. 7 "Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?"

Jeremiah 23:24 "Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them?"

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Matthew 28:20 Jesus says "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

v. 11-12 "If I say, 'Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,' even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you."

3. You're always thinking about me

v. 17-18 "How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand."

v. 16 "all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be."

4. But there's one thing I don't get...

v. 19-22 "If only you, God, would slay the wicked..."

Every person's Christian life will slide back and forth on a continuum for faith and doubt. How does David deal with his doubt in Psalm 139?

a) Praise God for what he does do, before complaining about what he doesn't do.

David wrote three stanza's praising God before he wrote one to highlight his complaint.

We do not need to bury our questions; we just need to put them in their proper order:

Philippians 4:8 "whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things."

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

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b) First deal with the evil inside

v. 24 “See if there is any offensive way in me”

“the line between good and evil is never simply between ‘us’ and ‘them.’ The line between good and evil runs through each one of us” ~ N.T. Wright

David realized that he couldn’t complain about all the evil “out there” when he knew there was still evil in his own heart.

Conclusion

David begins the Psalm with “you have searched me,” and ends with “search me.” He is not satisfied with the intimacy he’s had with God in the past - he wants more!

Life Group Discussion

1. Warm up: Are you an animal person? Do you prefer dogs or cats? Do you get defensive if people don’t like your pet?

2. Discuss Tim Keller’s quote: “To be loved but not known is comforting but superficial. To be known and not loved is our greatest fear. But to be fully known and truly loved is...what we need more than anything”
 - What is he trying to say?
 - Do you agree with this statement?

3. Theologians use the term “omnipresent” to describe the belief that God is present everywhere at all times (see Jeremiah 23:24 and Matthew 28:20). What do you think of that belief? Do you feel like he’s present with you all the time? How would it change the way you live if you were constantly aware of his presence?

4. In verses 19-22 King David struggles with the question of why God doesn’t do something about all the evil he sees around him. Do you still have unanswered questions about God? Are you willing to share one or two of them? How do you cope with living with unanswered questions?

5. Pray together:
 - a) Pray for an awareness of God’s love & presence like King David had.
 - b) Pray for help to deal with the anxiety of unanswered questions.
 - c) Other requests:
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