



Where is God When I Need Him Now? Psalm 139

Message Notes
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Psalm 139, is a personal prayer of David as he struggled with adversity, hardship, loss, chaos, and danger. David wrote it when he was being chased out of Jerusalem by his son Absalom in an attempted coup to oust David as King of Israel. The Syriac title for this psalm suggests that this was when Shimei threw rocks at David and cursed him (2 Samuel 16:5-7). It was a time when David felt quite alone.

Perhaps you know the feeling? When we go through hard times, we think we are alone. Psalm 139 says God is with us everywhere and everyplace. From this psalm, we learn **four facts** that demonstrate how close God really is to us:

I. God knows **everything** about you (verses 1-4)

1. God knows everything you **do**
"know when I sit and when I rise"
2. God knows everything you **think**
"perceive my thoughts from afar"
3. God knows everywhere you **go**
"my going out and my lying down"
4. God knows everything you **are**
"you are familiar with all my ways"
5. God knows everything you will **say**
"Before a word is on my tongue"

II. God is **everywhere** with you (verses 5-16a)

1. God is **inescapable** *"you hem me in"*
2. God is **omnipresent** *"where can I go from Your Spirit?"*
3. God is **creator** *"I am fearfully and wonderfully made"*

III. God is **sovereign** over you (verses 16b-22)

1. God is sovereign over your **life**
"all the days are ordained for me"
2. God is sovereign over your **mind**
"... your thoughts ..."
3. God is sovereign over your **enemies** *"the wicked"*

IV. God is **available** to you (verses 23-24)

1. God is available by **invitation** *"Search me and know me"*
2. God is available by **surrender**
"See if there is any offensive way in me"
3. God is available by **faith**
"Lead me in the way everlasting"

Your Response:

1. According to this psalm, is there a place that God can't be? Paraphrase verses 1 through **WHAT??** into your own words. Now mediate on the concepts.
2. What are you concerned about right now? Is it money, health, relationships, or something else? How would you apply this psalm to your circumstances right now? What is God saying to you as you struggle with this?
3. Do you have a fault, a handicap, or a hang-up? Now read verse 14 where it says that you are **"fearfully and wonderfully made."** Write out what this fact means to your insecurity, flaw, or whatever your struggle is. Keep your notes in your Bible to refer to when you feel insecure again.
4. Read Psalm 139:15-16. What is your response to the idea that God has ordained all of your days? What do you think that His destiny is for your life?
5. Mediate on verses 23 and 24. What are the things you keep hidden? What sins need to be confessed and repented of in your life? Pray asking God to **"lead you in the way everlasting."**

Resources:

Experiencing God
by Henry Blackaby and Claude King
Psalms (3 volumes) by James Montgomery Boice
The Daily Study Bible Series: Psalms
(3 volumes) by George A. F. Knight
Exposition of Psalms by H.C. Leupold
Knowing God by J.I. Packer
Your God is Too Small by J. B. Philipps
The God Who Is There by Francis Schaeffer

Southern Gables Church
4001 S. Wadsworth Blvd.
Littleton, CO 80123
Filled in answers can be
found on sgc.org