

Monday 4 April 2022

Psalm 139

- 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.

This is a Psalm that could go either way, it could terrify you or comfort you, depending on how you read it. I can imagine Jonah reading it and thinking this is the worst thing possible. Not only does God know everything, and I mean EVERYTHING, about me, even my thoughts before I speak them but there is also nowhere that I can hide from God. That is indeed a very scary thought, especially if you believe that God is up there with his lightning bolts ready to smite you.

But thankfully that's not the God who we worship, ours is a God who is compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love. This Psalm is not a threat about a God who is out to get you but rather about the extent of God's love. Our God knows EVERYTHING about us and still loves us. Our God knows all the dark thoughts, the bad words, the unkind and mean things we think, even if we don't say them and he still loves us enough to die on the cross for us. And no matter where we find ourselves, no matter what dark, foreboding place, no matter how deep or lonely the place, we can be sure that God is there with us. These are comforting words, encouraging thoughts and perhaps just a bit of a motivation to keep a check on our thoughts.

Prayer

Almighty God,

We confess it is a little unnerving considering that you know our minds and our thoughts so well. What we can hide from the world lies open and bare before you, all our insecurities, all our failures and faults. Forgive us when our thoughts are mean and unkind, cynical and dark. Forgive us when our thoughts, words and actions do not live up to your plan for our lives.

Thank you that even though you know everything about us, you still love us and you offer us forgiveness. Thank you that no matter where we go or what we are going through, we can know that you are there with us and there is nowhere we can go where you are not. Thank you for these comforting words and reassurances.

In Jesus name we pray,

Amen.

Rev Kim S Brown