Repeat: **Psalms Greatest Hits – Psalm 139 - Even If**

**150 songs, 400 years, 12+ authors – a shuffle through the best - Jesus Spotify playlist. The songs he would have sung and known.**

**Today, one of my all-time favorite Psalms – 139.**

**2 ways to approach it – as theology and as encouragement.**

* **Do you own anything you would describe as a masterpiece?**
* **What makes this item so unique?**

**Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, (God’s masterpiece) created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.**

**The world's version of self-esteem is found in self and tends to lead to arrogance and unhealthy pride.**

**Biblical self-esteem comes from these three facts:**

1. **God created you unique and special in his image.**

**Gen 1:27 – So, God created mankind in his own image… (both male and female)**

**You are a valued creation, stamped with the image of God. Every person alive is to be treated with respect and dignity.**

1. **Jesus died for you even when we were at our worst.**

**Rom 3:10-12 – No one is righteous, good or seeks God.**

**Rom 5:6-10 - While we were still weak, ungodly sinners, haters and enemies of God, deserving of and under the wrath of God – Christ dies for us.**

**Jesus did not die for you because you are worth it. Just the opposite. His love for us overruled our unworthiness. You were not good or deserving of his grace – this is love.**

**\*\* It is his salvation and adoption that give us value.**

**I am now a prized son/daughter of God – through Jesus.**

1. **God’s Spirit was given and lives in you if you are a Christian.**

**One has value because God, through Jesus, makes one valuable. Christ paid a priceless ransom for your life on the cross.**

**Ephesians 1:13-14 …when you heard the gospel of your salvation, and believed… you were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance to come until we possession it…**

**The deposit and down payment of our future inheritance lives in us. The Holy Spirit. God’s very presence in us.**

**\*\*\* What does it mean to see ourselves through the eyes of God?**

**I am created in God’s image, I am chosen in Christ Jesus and made valuable by His precious blood, and gifted and filled with the very Holy Spirit of God.**

**\*\*\* How might this change our life and response to life if we lived with this understanding?**

**Today's Psalm addresses this great place in the LORD, and the humble response that follows when we truly understand it.**

**The Appraisal**

**The Antiques Roadshow**

**Let’s dive in - Psalm 139:1 O LORD, you have searched me and known me! 2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up; (my every action) you discern my thoughts from afar. (my every thought) 3 You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. (my every intention) 4 Even before a word is on my tongue, (my every word) behold, O LORD, you know it altogether. 5 You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. (my every step - you surround me) 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it. (it blows my mind!)**

**God knows my every action, my every thought, my every intention, my every word, my every step – everything!**

**1. God knows everything about you – even if I try to keep it secret**

**The good, the bad, the ugly – regales of what we try to hide.**

**· It’s not just that God knows everything – *He knows me.***

**· It’s not just that God is everywhere – *He is everywhere with me.***

**· It’s not just that God created everything – *He created me.***

**(David Guzik)**

**Where you’ve been, what you’ve done, and every word you ever said. Nothing is hidden from him – nothing.**

**That can be scary. You might think no one knows…**

**God knows. Nothing is hidden from the LORD. Every secret, every sin, every thought, every action…**

**This is God’s omniscience. He knows all things everywhere simultaneously and exhaustively.**

**7 Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? 8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! (the grave – the place where the dead abide) 9 If I take the wings of the morning (soaring in the clouds) and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, (the deepest parts of the ocean) 10 even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.**

**2. God is always present – even if I run**

**No matter where you go – you can’t run from God.**

**This is the omnipresence of God. He is everywhere present simultaneously.**

**But he is not just everywhere all the time –**

**“10 even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.”**

**The hand of God is a picture of Jesus. He is the very right hand of God.**

**He is everywhere, always leading and holding me.**

**Even when I run, he holds and leads me.**

**11 If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night,” 12 even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.**

**3. God is ever present - even in my darkest moments.**

**You’re never alone, nothing is too dark, difficult, or disastrous for God’s hand.**

**There is hope (light) even in the darkest of days and hours – in the Lord. When it seems hopeless – “darkness is as light with you.”**

**This is the omnipotence of God. God is able to all that he wills to do - There is nothing to difficult or dark his power can’t invade.**

**13 For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. 14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. 15 My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. (figurative allusion to the mystery and seclusion of conception in the womb) 16 Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.**

**4. God created every person with beauty and purpose – even if it doesn’t seem like it**

**You are not a mistake or an accident. Regardless of the circumstances, every person is precious.**

**You are wonderfully made and designed beginning at conception.**

**All our DNA is present and determined at the moment of conception containing the full blueprint for a brand-new individual**

**No one is an oops in the eyes of God. Every child in the womb is precious miracle regardless of the circumstances of its conception. Every baby and every mother – are precious.**

**Pro-life! Is not a political issue or feminist issues - this is a biblical theological issue.**

**This is the omnibenevolence of God. Regardless of the circumstance God is working his goodness and perfection.**

**V16 - every day was written and established before a single day began.**

**A powerful and mysterious verse on God’s sovereign plan and knowledge of our lives.**

**God knows everything about me – the hairs on my head and freckles on my back. He knows my secret thoughts and every sinful action… yet -**

**139:17 How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! 18 If I would count them, they are more than the sand. (uncountable) I awake, and I am still with you. (it doesn’t change the next day or tomorrow)**

**5. God thinks highly of his kids – even if we don’t’ see it ourselves**

**Even though he knows everything about us.**

**Even though I am a goof – and make repeated mistake – as a child of God through Jesus – he loves me and see the best in me.**

**Have you tried counting the sand? How many good thoughts can you come up with to describe someone you like?**

**Pre-marriage couples - what do you love about them / attracted you to them? They run out… but God doesn’t.**

**Ephesians 3:14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, 16 that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.**

**This is an example of the immutability of God. His mind is unchanging in regard to his creation. You can’t out sin his grace and change his mind about you. It is unchanging – permanent.**

**David then has a moment. God since you know everything about me, you must know how much I am hurting and those who are hurting me.**

**19 Oh that you would slay the wicked, O God! O men of blood, depart from me! 20 They speak against you with malicious intent; your enemies take your name in vain. 21 Do I not hate those who hate you, O LORD? And do I not loathe those who rise up against you? 22 I hate them with complete hatred; I count them my enemies. (harsh words – God kill them all - yikes)**

**Even though David was getting fleshly – he understood something very important…**

**6. God is still working - even when life seems unfair**

**When we hurt and when we feel attacked – God is there.**

**When we have a bad attitude and unforgiveness – God is patient.**

**When you don’t understand why life is so hard – God is working.**

**Right now – if you’re dealing with physical health problems, money problems, family issues, co-workers criticizing you, feeling attacked and cornered… God cares and is working.**

**After David gets aggressive about the wicked around him, it’s as if David backs up and realizes… “whoa – yike, if God takes out the wicked… that includes me.”**

**23 Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! 24 And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!**

**This is to say – show me what you see.**

**7. God knows you have a sin problem – even if we don’t realize it**

**God show me what I need to repent of and where I need to change. What is grieving you in my life?**

**God know us better than we know ourselves.**

**“…and lead me in the way everlasting!” (a change of direction = repentance)**

**Turning from my way to your way (Jesus is the way!)**

**God loves you the way you are – and loves you too much to let you stay the way you are.**

**1 John 1:8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.**

**Search my heart oh God… let me see what you see and repent where needed – knowing you will forgive.**

**We will never understand who we are until we understand who He is.**

**\*\* God reveal your great love for us**

**\*\* God reveal your great grace for us**

**\*\* God reveal the sin in our life that grieves you**