You Were Never Hidden

Psalm 139:1–12 (NIV)

WHAT WE'RE READING

- A prayer, not a story. The heading says it's a psalm of David, the same David who spent a year covering up Bathsheba and Uriah.
- It moves in three steps: God knows me (vv. 1–6). I can't run (vv. 7–10). I can't hide (vv. 11–12).

1 · HE ALREADY KNOWS THE WHOLE STORY (vv. 1–6)

> *"You have searched me, LORD, and you know me."* — Psalm 139:1
>
> *"Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely."* — Psalm 139:4

Yada *(YAH-dah)* "Know." The same word used for Adam and Eve's intimacy in Genesis 4:1 (KJV: "Adam knew Eve"). Not knowing about you. Close enough to know you.

Zarah *(zah-RAH)* "Discern" (v. 3; KJV "compass"). The picture of winnowing grain, where the wind separates wheat from chaff. God separates what's real from what's for show.

- Adam and Eve tried to hide it. Cain tried. David tried. All of them found out God already knew.
- David's response in verse 6 isn't fear. It's wonder: "Such knowledge is too wonderful for me."

You can't surprise God with your secret. He knew it before you did.

DISCUSS *Have you ever rehearsed what you'd say to God in prayer? Why, if He already knows? Which is harder: being known by people, or by God?*

2 · YOU CAN'T OUTRUN HIM, AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO (vv. 7–10)

> *"Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?"* — Psalm 139:7

Barach *(bah-RAKH)* "Flee." The same word for David fleeing Saul (1 Sam 19:12), Moses fleeing Pharaoh (Ex 2:15), and Jonah fleeing to Tarshish (Jonah 1:3). David knows what running feels like.

- Up to the heavens, down to the depths, east on the wings of the dawn, west across the sea. He's there.
- Jonah ran, and only went from bad to worse. Running never fixes it. It just changes the scenery.

> *"…even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast."* — Psalm 139:10

Every road you run down, God is already standing at the end of it.

DISCUSS *How do people run when the lie stops working? When did you run and find God already there?*

3 · THE DARK DOESN'T WORK ON GOD (vv. 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."* — Psalm 139:11–12

Choshek *(KHO-shek)* "Darkness." The same word as Genesis 1:2, the first darkness in the Bible, the darkness God spoke light into.

> *"Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account."* — Hebrews 4:13
>
> *"God is light; in him there is no darkness at all."* — 1 John 1:5

The dark only hides you from people. It's never hidden you from God.

DISCUSS *What's the "dark" people count on today? If God already sees everything, why do we still need to confess?*

BRING IT HOME

> *"You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me."* — Psalm 139:5

Tsur *(tsoor)* "Hem in." Used for an army surrounding a city, or a guard protecting something valuable. You're surrounded either way. The question is: siege, or guard?

- The hand that is upon you (v. 5) is the hand that holds you fast (v. 10). God's knowledge is for your protection.

You're not under siege. You're under guard.

You were never hidden. And you were never alone.

> THIS WEEK What would change if you really believed you never had to hide from God?