# We Are Not Alone

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*O LORD, you have searched me and known me. 2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. 3 You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. 4 Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely. 5 You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it. 7 Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? 8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. 9 If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, 10 even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast. 11 If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night," 12 even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you." (Psalm 139:1-12).*

## 1. How Have You Been?

After 16 weeks, we get together this morning for our first outdoor service. I am so glad to see everyone and thank God for taking care of all of you during the past many weeks.

## 2. God's Omniscience & Omnipresence

This morning, I'd like us to share with you the good news from Psalm 139. Psalm 139 is known as a psalm of David. This psalm tells us what David experienced with the Lord in his life.

In verses 1 through 6, David says that God knows everything about him. In the Old Testament, the term "know" has a deeper meaning than in English language. It means to have an intimate understanding like between spouses. God knew who David was and what he was thinking on a very close level. David says that God "has searched" him. The term "search" means "to examine thoroughly." God examined David's physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual condition.

In verse 2, David says, "***You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away****."* When a baby cries, parents get a sense for what the baby may want. God knows even more than this. David felt surrounded by God's presence. God was before and behind David. David felt God empowering and reassuring him during difficult times and God's protection from the dangers that were around every corner.

In verse 6, David says, "***Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it***." The depth of God's knowledge for David is beyond his ability to understand. David acknowledges that the Lord understands David better than he could ever understand himself.

How did God know David so well? In verses 15 & 16, David says that God knew all about him even before he was born because God was his creator. If the Lord knew everything about David even before he was born, God would know everything about David's future as well even before it happens. Psalm 139 says, although we do not know what is going to happen to us in the future, God knows everything about us and knows our future because God is our creator.

**3. God is with Us**

In verses 7 and the following, David says that God knows him very well because wherever he goes, God is there. Even when David tried to escape from God, God would lead David and follow him.

David found God's presence comforting. David knew that God would be with him even in the distant places. In verses 11 and 12, David says, "***If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night,"*** [12] ***even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you****."*

David knew that the Lord would be present with him like the light in darkness. David tells us that we never need to fear because the Lord is near us and protect us. Has God always been with His people? Yes, but they sometimes do not feel like God is so close.

**4. Was the Lord with His People Always?**

The Temple in Jerusalem was the central place of worship for the Jewish people. The Temple reminded the people of the presence of the Lord. The Jerusalem Temple was destroyed by the Romans in 70 CE. Many Jewish people were scattered all over the world.

The Jewish communities in foreign lands began to meet in the synagogue. The term synagogue means "assembly." In the synagogue, the Torah was read and prayers or psalms were recited as part of the service.

During this time, it could have been easy for the Jewish people to believe that God was no longer with them. But although the Temple was destroyed, the people still believed that the presence of the Lord was with them in a foreign land.

What about the temple in Jesus' time? In Matthew 12:2, Jesus says, "***One greater than the Temple is here***." The disciples of Jesus and the

earliest Christians believed that Jesus was more important than the Temple. They got together in the homes of believers. There were no church buildings when they began to get together. We enjoy our stone church in Sagamore Beach. But Psalm 139 reminds us that God is not only with us in the sanctuary but also in our homes, at work, and wherever we go.

**5. Feeling of the Absence of the Lord**

Did David feel the presence of the Lord with him always? No, he did not. In Psalm 22, David says, "***My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning? 2 O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest***." In Psalm 22, we notice that David felt times of great trial. He felt as if God had forsaken him. We know that Jesus also felt this same trial on the cross. In times of suffering, challenges, and loss, we can feel like there is no God's presence in our lives. But our hard times do not mean that God is absent. In those moments, it is time for us to open our spiritual eyes to see and be reminded that God is still very present and close to us, even in our times of most need.

**6. Conclusion**

In Luke chapter 24, two disciples of Jesus go towards Emmaus. While travelling, Jesus appears to the disciples and walks with them. The disciples do not recognize Jesus until Jesus breaks a bread at their house. The disciples were spiritually blind to Jesus' presence even when Jesus was walking right next to them.

Do we believe that God knows everything about us and God is always with us? Are our spiritual eyes open always to see what God is doing in our lives? Psalm 139 reminds us that God is always with us and we need to open our spiritual eyes to see God in our times of need.

**7. Application**

Last Friday, I met one of our church members when walking on the Canal. She said that she heard a ship's horn through the morning fog. A few minutes later, we saw a huge ship pass through the canal. We often do not see God because God seems to be in the midst of fog. David tells us that God knew us even before we were born and knows our future. In our times of need, we can feel like a fog is around us and God is far away. But If we open our spiritual eyes to see the signs of God's presence, we will experience his care for us. May we always be reminded of God's constant presence and everlasting love through his son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Amen.