

## Bible Recap

# Search Me

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Sermon in a Sentence: God knows me better than I know me, so I need to ask Him to search me and show me.

Application: In today's message we're going to make time to do some preventative maintenance. To check fluids, do an oil change and examine the vital components of our life for signs of wear and bigger problems that might surface later. Sometimes these examinations reveal serious problems, but taking care of it now means it won't cause bigger problems in the future. God knows me better than I know me, so I need to ask Him to search me and show me.

Me

A few weeks ago I was craving pork spare ribs and decided to make some for dinner. Sensor pack that shows me what's happening on the grill, because "If you're looking, you're not cooking."

Ribs ended up chewy because I hadn't performed regular maintenance on my grill.

This is a silly example, but it speaks to a tension we all feel.

Tension Set: **When is the right time to do preventative maintenance?** It's expensive in time and money. Does the oil really need to be changed at 5,000 miles? Do I really need to refill that propane?

The problem comes when you uncover a problem. CV joint is torn, brake pads worn, cholesterol is too high, batteries need to be replaced.

**What would it look like to do spiritual preventative maintenance?** Imagine if you could run a diagnostic on your life that would tell you your prayer levels are a little low or maybe your attitude needs an adjustment, before you blow up on everyone.

We (Exploring the tension):

We might not use this language, but I'm guessing this is something you've asked yourself:

Teen- Life is filled with so many options, how do I know I'm making the right choice?

Parents- I love my kids, but I don't like them sometimes. Is this a problem or a phase?

Empty Nester- Is there more that I could be doing with my life? (Because you have more free time, and can only play so much golf)

Retired- How do I make sure I'm leaving a legacy?

Luckily, King David gives us a prayer we can pray that will help keep us heading in the right direction if we pray it regularly.

What is the big picture (sermon in a sentence):

**[SLIDE] God knows me better than I know me, so I need to ask Him to search me and show me.**

God

Series Recap, Background on Text

This Psalm was written by King David to say, "God, I'm pretty sure I'm right, but you know better, so search me and show me the areas of struggle in my life."

It shows us 4 truths about who God is in 4 six verse stanzas, and encourages us to go to God in our pain (external or self-inflicted).

### **Psalm 139: 1-6 (NIV)**

**<sup>1</sup>You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.**

**<sup>2</sup>You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.**

**<sup>3</sup>You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.**

**<sup>4</sup>Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely.**

**<sup>5</sup>You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me.**

**<sup>6</sup>Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.**

- God know David perfectly. His actions and his thoughts.
  - He even knows what David will say before he says it!
- **[SLIDE] Our God is Omniscient (All-Knowing)**
  - He knows the number of hairs on my head, and the amount of sand. He placed the stars in the sky.
  - God knows me better than I know me!

But he doesn't stop there...

**[VIDEO] Where**

### **Psalm 139: 7-12 (NIV)**

**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.**

- Reminds me of Jonah, on the run from God
- But also it speaks to wherever life takes you. Sometimes we find ourselves in rough situations.
  - A class or teacher or boss that is frustrating
  - Trying to make ends meet
  - Did I make the right decisions?
  - It doesn't matter where you go, He is there! (And that means your kitchen, too)
- **[SLIDE] Our God is Omnipresent (everywhere at the same time)**
  - Whether you're on the run or wishing you could run away, He is there for you

He's everywhere and knows everything, now the Psalmist is going to stretch our understanding even further:

### **Psalm 139: 13-18 (NIV)**

**13 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.**

**14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful,  
I know that full well.**

**15 My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place,  
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.**

**16 Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your  
book before one of them came to be.**

**17 How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them!**

**18 Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand—  
when I awake, I am still with you.**

- I picture God in a lab, with the DNA of our parents stretched out in front of him, selecting our attributes (height, weight, level of sass)
- He not only formed us, but He wrote our story.
- **[SLIDE] Our God is Intimate (He thinks about you constantly)**
  - He's a great big God who wants to be involved in my small life
  - Psalm 8-
    - Another Psalm of David

- When I consider the heavens... what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?
- O God, how majestic is your name in all the earth
- Let's take a minute to praise God right now!

Our God knows all, is always present, is involved in the details of our lives, and... (sudden plot twist from David)

### **Psalm 139: 19-24 (NIV)**

#### **<sup>19</sup> If only you, God, would slay the wicked!**

- God, you're know what's going on, you're here and you're concerned about me, so why am I going through this?
- It's not like God just found out, or is on vacation, or is focused on something else...

#### **Away from me, you who are bloodthirsty!**

*Note that the people are speaking out against God, and David*

#### **<sup>20</sup> They speak of you with evil intent; your adversaries misuse your name.**

#### **<sup>21</sup> Do I not hate those who hate you, Lord, and abhor those who are in rebellion against you?**

#### **<sup>22</sup> I have nothing but hatred for them; I count them my enemies.**

- This trouble has come on David BECAUSE of his service to God
- If your love for God isn't causing the occasional issue in your life... We have a prayer for you to pray.
- Love of good creates a hatred for evil, but first the Psalmist needs to look at the plank in his own eye

You

#### **[Worship Team come to the stage]**

#### **<sup>23</sup> Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.**

#### **<sup>24</sup> See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.**

- He knows my heart, guides my steps, He's personally involved, and wants to protect my heart from evil.
- This is the type of prayer that's dangerous, because it's going to reveal something about us that we don't like.
  - God's going to challenge our attitude towards another person
  - He might even ask you to forgive someone
  - You might have to admit that you were wrong
  - He might challenge you to serve in kids ministry, or give 10%, or raise your hands in worship

**[SLIDE] God knows me better than I know me, so I need to ask Him to search me and show me.**

Us

But imagine for a minute what your life could be like if you're willing to do some preventative maintenance.

- Instead of waiting for your spouse to confront your bad attitude, what if you went to them first? Don't you want them to do that for you?
- Instead of filling your free time with more NCIS or Chicago Med, maybe God will ask you to volunteer your time, and you'll see how fulfilling living a life of purpose can be.
- You might come across a more major problem, but ignoring it isn't helping.

**[SLIDE] God knows me better than I know me, so I need to ask Him to search me and show me.**

Altar