

May 29, 2016

**Search Me, O God**  
**Psalm 139:1-6**

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

Even when no one else does, the Father in Heaven \_\_\_\_\_ everything about me. He knows how I \_\_\_\_\_, what I \_\_\_\_\_, and what I \_\_\_\_\_. Would I ask the Lord to \_\_\_\_\_ my heart and see if there is any hurtful way in me? Am I willing to \_\_\_\_\_ my life of every sin? These important questions challenge us to live by a higher \_\_\_\_\_.

I hope and pray that you make it your \_\_\_\_\_ each day to live pleasing to the Lord. It's amazing how many take the \_\_\_\_\_ of God for granted and never think about improving their spiritual lives. The apostle Paul said, "So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to \_\_\_\_\_ him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is \_\_\_\_\_ for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil" (2 Corinthians 5:9-10). Each of us must one day \_\_\_\_\_ the consequences of our behavior. How does God see you?

Have you made it the business of your life to \_\_\_\_\_ in your faith, your love, and your zeal for the Lord? Many people live lives in complacency, thinking that because they're under the grace of God they never \_\_\_\_\_ to mature or grow. But God expects all of us to examine our hearts and to see if there are things we can do \_\_\_\_\_. As we study from the Scriptures today, I hope you'll take a long look at your heart, your life, and your soul. Are you living as God wills? Could there be some sinful or hurtful way in you?

**Our reading today comes from one of David's Psalms, Psalm 139:1-6.** One cannot think about this magnificent Psalm, without the overwhelming realization that God is \_\_\_\_\_ with us. He sees and knows everything about us. He searches our \_\_\_\_\_ and knows us better than we know ourselves. He knows how we think and all our actions. Psalm 139 says, "You know when I \_\_\_\_\_ down and when I \_\_\_\_\_ up." Psalm 139 says God discerns our "\_\_\_\_\_ from afar." Psalm 139 says, "Even before a \_\_\_\_\_ is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether."

The Bible says God encircles us. "You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me" (Psalm 139:5). The fact is that you cannot go anywhere that God isn't already \_\_\_\_\_. You can't \_\_\_\_\_ away from God. Psalm 139:7-12 says, "Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me. If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night,' even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you."

God is both omniscient (that is, all-knowing) and omnipresent (that is, everywhere-present). He's not \_\_\_\_\_ by space or time; and nothing escapes His notice. Proverbs 15:3 says, "The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping \_\_\_\_\_ on the evil and the good." No one can \_\_\_\_\_ the presence of God. This fact ought to \_\_\_\_\_ us that we must have pure and holy lives. God said in

Leviticus 11:44 and again in 1 Peter 1:16, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

Again, the Bible says, “Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14). God expects His people to \_\_\_\_\_ their sins and live holy lives. God will not tolerate being put in \_\_\_\_\_ place to our sins. God wants to be \_\_\_\_\_ in your heart, in your life, in your thoughts, and in your words. David knew that God would not tolerate wickedness but would one day slay the wicked.

God knew about us even before we were \_\_\_\_\_. **Read how David spoke of God in Psalm 139:13-16.**

Because David knew that God saw every aspect of his life and that sin would \_\_\_\_\_ God, the Father, he asked the Father in Heaven, “Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous (any sinful) way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!” (Psalm 139:23-24). David wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ the Father so much that he wanted God to \_\_\_\_\_ his heart and life to see if there was any grievous or hurtful way in him. God would already know it. God didn’t need to search to find out. It was David who was the one who needed to know. He didn’t want anything to come \_\_\_\_\_ God and himself. He wanted to get \_\_\_\_\_ of the hurtful way and be \_\_\_\_\_ in the everlasting way!

David was saying, “You know, Father, if there’s something wrong with me, I want to know it so I can \_\_\_\_\_ my ways.” This we all need to consider! David wanted so badly to stand \_\_\_\_\_ in the sight of God that he opened up his life to God’s scrutiny. We might be able to fool others; we might even fool ourselves about our sins; but we can never, never, never fool God! David was afraid that he was ignorant of a sin, or he had \_\_\_\_\_ himself to a sin he was committing. People tend to do that this day and time, blinding themselves to the things that God calls sin.

We must all be concerned about whether we are \_\_\_\_\_ in sinful ways and don’t even recognize it. Perhaps we’re entertaining some wicked thoughts or \_\_\_\_\_ to do our duties as Christians. God’s Word \_\_\_\_\_ us the things that we must do and the things that we must not do. They’re clearly set out in Scripture, but many people live their lives completely oblivious to their own \_\_\_\_\_. I’m reminded of Proverbs 30:20, which says, “This is the way of an adulterous woman: She eats and wipes her mouth, And says, ‘I have done no \_\_\_\_\_.’”

Sin is deceitful. People who commit sin don’t like to acknowledge that they could have done such a thing. The more people sin, the more likely they are to \_\_\_\_\_ themselves of sin. They often re-label sin to \_\_\_\_\_ the sting and to make it appear innocent. For instance, a person isn’t greedy; he has “business savvy.” Or, a drunk will hardly ever admit that he is intoxicated; instead he’ll say he’s “high.” A gossip may never admit he or she is backbiting; instead, they’re merely being zealous against sin. Many people \_\_\_\_\_ their principles according to their practice rather than shape their practice according to their principles.

Sin is able to deceive us because sin colors our \_\_\_\_\_. If I allow a certain lust in my heart to continue, it won’t be long until I find a way to \_\_\_\_\_ of my own actions. People just naturally begin to think that whatever \_\_\_\_\_ them must be all right. The same passions that lead people into sin \_\_\_\_\_ them to its deceitfulness. So they begin justifying their behavior. For instance, the more we \_\_\_\_\_ someone, the more inclined we may be to tell ourselves this person is rotten and

deserves to be hated. We may even tell ourselves that we're \_\_\_\_\_ to hate others. Sin corrupts the \_\_\_\_\_ and it makes its thoughts twisted.

This is why the Bible says, "Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to \_\_\_\_\_ from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it's called 'today,' that none of you may be \_\_\_\_\_ by the deceitfulness of sin" (Hebrews 3:12-13). Sin deceives us, blinds us to ourselves, and then it hardens our hearts toward Christ and other people. Many people who get caught up in sin grow \_\_\_\_\_ at anyone who thinks what they're doing is wrong. But, inside they know the truth; they just don't want to \_\_\_\_\_ it, and that's why they become angry.

Proverbs 21:2 says, "Every way of a man is right in his own \_\_\_\_\_, but the LORD weighs the \_\_\_\_\_." If given enough time, you can \_\_\_\_\_ to yourself whatever it is you want to. Just because you think it's all \_\_\_\_\_, doesn't mean that God approves of your sin. Even if everybody in the world says it's OK, it doesn't necessarily mean that God approves of that sin. Basically, what people do is they tend to \_\_\_\_\_ to themselves. We can't always \_\_\_\_\_ our own hearts. The Bible says, "Whoever trusts in his own mind (his own heart) is a \_\_\_\_\_, but whoever walks in wisdom will be delivered" (Proverbs 28:26). That's why we need to \_\_\_\_\_ our Bibles. Don't trust in your own \_\_\_\_\_ as to what is right and wrong; trust the \_\_\_\_\_ of God found in the Word of God. God's the one who's going to \_\_\_\_\_ in the end; you need to listen to what He has to say and not put your blinders on, but hear Him and not try to argue with Him.

People easily see the faults of \_\_\_\_\_ but they seem to miss even the most glaring faults of their \_\_\_\_\_. You remember the words of our Lord Jesus in Matthew 7:3-5 about unfair judging: "Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' and behold, the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye."

When some people see the errors of others, they can quickly \_\_\_\_\_ them; but it seems easy for people to \_\_\_\_\_ themselves for committing the same sin. Romans 2:1-3 says, "Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things. We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who do such things. Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who do such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God?"

Paul urged the Corinthians, "Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the \_\_\_\_\_. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the \_\_\_\_\_!" (2 Corinthians 13:5). Let's ask ourselves some questions that search our souls. Let's see if there is any grievous or hurtful way in our lives. Let's see if we pass the test.

First, do I believe Jesus is the Christ, the \_\_\_\_\_ of the living God? Do I believe that He \_\_\_\_\_ for my sins and that He was raised up; that He really died on the cross; he really did resurrect from the dead. Do I believe the Bible is truly inspired of God and free from \_\_\_\_\_? Do I believe the Lord Jesus is coming again one day to \_\_\_\_\_ the world in righteousness according to the things that are written in the Book and according to our deeds? Do I really, really believe? If I don't have faith in

Christ, there's no way that I can \_\_\_\_\_ God at all. I have \_\_\_\_\_ the test.

A second question is do I \_\_\_\_\_ God with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength? We might easily \_\_\_\_\_ that we love God, but do we love Him completely and freely? Do we put Him \_\_\_\_\_ in our lives, our decisions, our plans, and our time? Do I \_\_\_\_\_ regularly and fervently? Do I \_\_\_\_\_ and meditate on God's Word? Do I \_\_\_\_\_ others about God? Do I turn to God when I hurt? Am I compassionate toward those who \_\_\_\_\_ and those who are \_\_\_\_\_? Have I encouraged anyone lately? Am I willing to be a bigot towards other races or be prejudiced towards those who are not like me?

Do I let the lust of the \_\_\_\_\_, the lust of the \_\_\_\_\_, the pride of life lead me away from God? Do I have pet sins that I keep committing? With what kinds of things do I \_\_\_\_\_ my heart? Do I think \_\_\_\_\_ thoughts or do I allow sexual sin to flirt with me? Do I allow my eyes to see things that I shouldn't see or my ears to hear things I shouldn't hear?

Do I allow my \_\_\_\_\_ to indulge in envy or jealousy? Do I \_\_\_\_\_ with others often? Do I gossip? Am I greedy? Do I support the Lord's \_\_\_\_\_ generously? Am I \_\_\_\_\_ for all the blessings that God gives to me and my family? Do I tell lies? Am I \_\_\_\_\_ in all my dealings with others? Do I \_\_\_\_\_ on my taxes?

The grace of God provides a wonderful \_\_\_\_\_ of forgiveness, and we all desperately need the grace of God. But God's loving grace should lead us to repentance and a \_\_\_\_\_ of ways. We must never presume on the grace of God or think the grace of God allows us to \_\_\_\_\_ in sin. Oh no, God's gracious \_\_\_\_\_ of the death of Jesus Christ on the cross was done so that we might be forgiven; and it was not a cheap gift. It deserves to be taken seriously. So, let's examine ourselves so that the grace that God has given us may not be in \_\_\_\_\_. In Psalm 26:2, David asks God, "Prove me, O LORD, and try me; test my heart and my mind." Could you ask God to \_\_\_\_\_ you to see what kind of person you are? Would you want God to look into your \_\_\_\_\_? What would He see? Would you want Him to look into your \_\_\_\_\_? Would you want Him to know what you're thinking right now? God already knows what's inside of you, but are you willing to \_\_\_\_\_ yourself spiritually that you might \_\_\_\_\_ what is wrong? Would you be willing to see if there is any grievous way in you and then give it up?

David could say in Psalm 26:1, "I have walked in my integrity, and I have \_\_\_\_\_ in the LORD without wavering." Can you say that? In verse three, David says, "For your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I \_\_\_\_\_ in your faithfulness. I do not sit with men of falsehood, nor do I consort with hypocrites. I hate the assembly of evildoers, and I will not sit with the wicked." Can you say this?

As you look at your life, you might ask yourself if you have made a firm commitment to God. God has loved you enough to send His Son to die for you. Have you come to Him? A person makes a commitment and becomes a Christian when he believes with all his heart that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. A person who commits to Christ will recognize Jesus as Lord, turn away from every sinful thought or behavior, and turn to a life that pleases God; that's repentance. A person who commits to Jesus will confess Him before others and will be baptized in water for the forgiveness of his sins (Acts 2:38). Oh, I pray that you'll do that today!