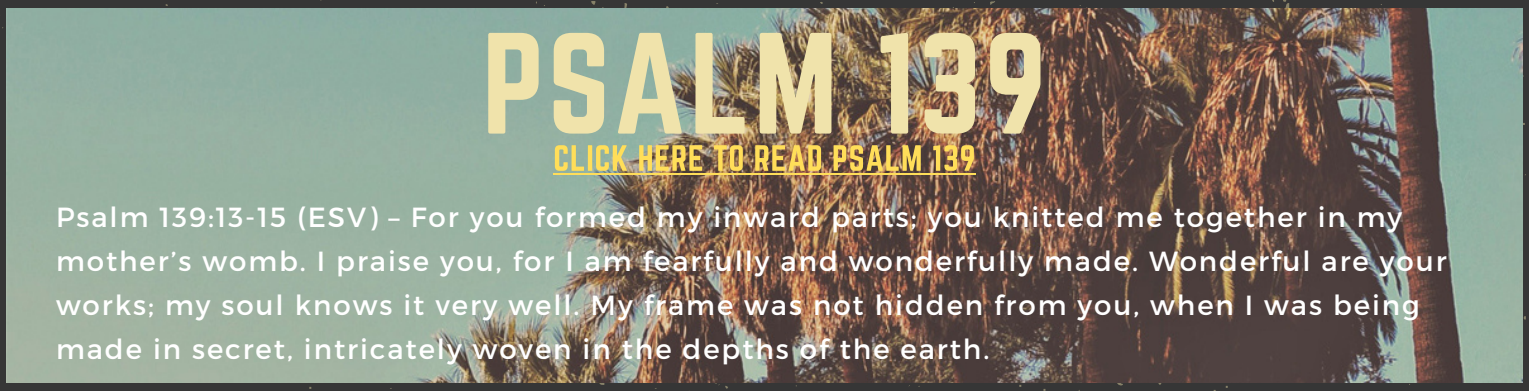

PSALM 139

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Psalm 139:13-15 (ESV) – For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

EVERYONE IS INSECURE ABOUT SOMETHING, RIGHT? IT COULD BE THE SOUND OF YOUR VOICE, YOUR HAIR COLOUR, THE SIZE OF YOUR FEET, YOUR NAME; ANYTHING! WHEN I WAS A KID I WAS REALLY INSECURE ABOUT MY HEIGHT. SPOILER, I'M NOT TALL. I'M SHORT. I MAKE SURE TO TELL PEOPLE WHEN THEY ASK HOW TALL I AM, THAT I'M 5'7, AND A HALF. A LOT OF KIDS ARE AROUND THE SAME HEIGHT WHEN THEY'RE YOUNG, RIGHT? YOU NOTICE THE SEPARATION AS THEY START TO GET OLDER. NOT SO WITH ME. I WAS ALWAYS KNOWN AS THE SHORT KID IN MY CLASS. I REMEMBER I USED TO GET IN FIGHTS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WITH ONE KID WHO WAS A YEAR YOUNGER THAN I WAS, BECAUSE AT THE END OF EVERY RECESS HE WOULD ALWAYS COME UP TO ME AND CALL ME "SHORT STUFF." YOU KNOW YOU'RE SHORT WHEN YOUNGER KIDS CALL YOU SHORT STUFF. I HATED IT. THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING I COULD DO ABOUT BEING SHORT.

OUR INSECURITIES HAVE A WAY OF FORMING OUR IDENTITY, DON'T THEY? WE DO OUR BEST TO CONCEAL THEM. WE WANT TO SHOW PEOPLE THE BEST PARTS OF WHO WE ARE, AND I SUPPOSE THAT'S HUMAN NATURE, AND I'M NOT SUGGESTING JUST AIRING OUT ALL YOUR DIRTY LAUNDRY TO EVERY PERSON YOU MEET NOW. BUT WHAT IF WE ACTUALLY BELIEVED THAT GOD CREATED US THE WAY WE ARE ON PURPOSE? I KNOW WE "KNOW" THIS, BUT DO WE ACTUALLY "KNOW" THIS. I KNOW YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN. I CAN ALMOST HEAR SOME OF YOU SAYING, "YEAH, YEAH." BUT THINK OF IT. THE WAY YOU ARE GOES BEYOND YOUR DNA. IT GOES BEYOND WHAT YOU'VE RECEIVED AS A RESULT OF YOUR FAMILY TREE. WE AS CHRISTIANS BELIEVE THAT GOD HAD A HAND IN CREATING US. YOU'RE FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE. IN OTHER TRANSLATIONS OF THIS SAME PASSAGE OF SCRIPTURE IT SAYS, "MY FRAME WASN'T HIDDEN FROM YOU WHEN I WAS FORMED IN THE SECRET PLACE." GOD HAD EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO CHANGE ANYTHING HE DIDN'T SEE FIT, AND YET YOU ARE THE WAY THAT YOU ARE. NO, THIS ISN'T LICENSE TO GIVE IN TO EVERY PROCLIVITY AND IMPULSE THAT YOU HAVE. IT'S NOT PERMISSION TO SIN. BUT THINK OF ALL THE IDIOSYNCRASIES YOU HAVE. THINK OF THOSE PERSONALITY TRAITS, AND THOSE MANNERISMS THAT YOU WISH YOU DIDN'T HAVE. THINK ABOUT THE WAY THAT YOU THINK ABOUT LIFE, THE WAY YOU RELATE TO PEOPLE, AND HOW YOU EXPERIENCE AND ENCOUNTER GOD. IT'S SO EASY FOR US TO COMPARE OURSELVES TO OTHER PEOPLE. IT'S EASY TO WISH WE WERE THIS WAY, AND NOT THAT WAY. DON'T YOU THINK THAT SUGGESTS THAT WE THINK GOD MADE A MISTAKE WITH THE WAY THAT WE WERE CREATED? TAKE JOY IN THE WAY THAT HE MADE YOU, BECAUSE HE DID THAT ON PURPOSE.

I WAS PUTTING MY KIDS TO BED A WHILE BACK, AND I'LL OFTEN LISTEN TO THEM SAY THEIR PRAYERS WHEN THEY GO TO SLEEP, AND THEN I'LL PRAY WITH, AND FOR THEM BEFORE I LEAVE THEIR ROOMS. IT WAS MY DAUGHTER'S TURN, AND AS SHE WAS PRAYING SHE SAID, "THANK-YOU THAT YOU MADE ME JUST THE WAY I LIKE ME." I ALMOST CRIED. IF ONLY SHE KNEW HOW VALUABLE IT WAS TO ACTUALLY ENJOY THE SKIN WE'RE IN. I HOPE SHE NEVER GROWS OUT OF THAT, AND I HOPE WE CAN ALL EMBRACE AN ATTITUDE LIKE THAT; CONFIDENT IN HOW WE'VE BEEN CREATED, AND WHO WE'VE BEEN CREATED TO BE.

WHAT IS GOD SPEAKING TO ME TODAY?