



Title | Soft Spot
Series | After God's Own Heart
Text | Psalm 139:1-18, Luke 15:20, Heb 4:15-16
By | Ricky Amano
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Sermon Notes

Psalm 139:1 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 afar. 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, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether. 5 You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it. 7 Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall 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 dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, 10 even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me. 11 If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night,” 12 even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you. 13 For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb. 14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. 15 My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. 16 Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them. 17 How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! 18 If I would count them, they are more than the sand. I awake, and I am still with you. *ESV*

Luke 15:20 and he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. *ESV*

Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. *ESV*

Big Idea:

Hebrews 4:16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. *ESV*

For Reflection and Application:

Monday:

Read Psalm 139:1-6. According to verses 1-4, what are some of the things that God knows about you? How well does He know you? Is there anyone else that knows you this well? What do verses 5-6 say about how deeply God cares for you?

Tuesday:

Read Psalm 139:7-12. Is there anywhere you can go where God is not with you? According to verses 9-10, in what ways does God take care of you no matter where you are and what circumstances you find yourself in? Is there anyone else that is able to take care of you as well as your heavenly Father?

Wednesday:

Read Psalm 139:13-18. How carefully and lovingly did God create you? Consider how well God knows every thought we have and everything that we have done, the good and the bad. How is it that a perfect and holy God cares so deeply for us despite our flaws and struggles?

Consider this definition of a “soft spot”:

feeling a strong, tender affection, fondness for someone, often overlooking flaws due to a deep affection or emotional connection. It signifies warmth, empathy, and a gentle, nurturing feeling rather than a hardened or critical stance.

Do you think that God has a “soft spot” in His heart for you?

Does God merely overlook our flaws, or did He provide a solution for them?

Thursday:

Read Luke 15:11-24. When the son returns to his father, would you say that he comes with deep flaws and struggles? Why do you think the father saw his son coming while he was yet so far away? What was the father’s immediate reaction to his son? Was it “a hardened or critical stance” or “warmth, empathy and a gentle nurturing feeling”? Would you say that the father has a soft spot in his heart for his son? How do you think the father’s “soft spot” affects the son’s desire to develop a closer relationship with his father?

Friday:

Read Hebrews 4:15-16 and Isaiah 40:11. Sometimes the shame of our flaws and struggles can prevent us from coming to a holy God. Why then does Hebrews 4:16 say that we can come before God with “confidence”? And when we come before Him, how well does it say that He will receive us? What further insight can we gain from Isaiah 40:11, in terms of how God views our relationship with Him?

Daily Prayer:

Father, thank you so much for your deep love and continued grace for me despite my flaws and struggles. I want to have a closer relationship with You and to grow to know you more and more each day. Amen.

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