

**Sermon Discussion Guide: December 31, 2023**  
**Psalm 139, "Fully Known" – Pastor Adria Willett-Leonardo**

**Overview:**

In John 4, we hear the account of Jesus meeting a Samaritan woman at the well outside her town. During the conversation, Jesus tells her that he knows about her many failed marriages. He also reveals to her that he is the Messiah. She goes back to the town and invites everyone to "come meet the man who told me everything I ever did" (4:29). Jesus knew the circumstances of her life, knew about her sin and her shame, and yet he treated her with respect and dignity. He stayed and revealed himself as the Messiah to her.

*Would it be good news to you today, to encounter Jesus and he knew everything about you?*

In the Psalms, King David models an incredible openness and honesty before God. And in Psalm 139, David praises God for knowing everything about him. He is so secure in the Lord's knowledge of him that he invites God's examination (vv 23-24). How many of us have the courage to do that?

The fact that the Lord knows everything about us is good news! He knows who we are—personality, history, bad habits, shame, trauma, sin, what we are feeling, our circumstances, all of that—he knows all of that, and still loves us! We don't have to pretend before God or try to be something that we are not.

He knows our sin—and offers us forgiveness and grace when we are willing to admit our sin. Hiding our sin takes a toll on us and our relationship with God. *True intimacy can't happen without true honesty!*

Eugene Peterson has written that "we must pray who we actually are, not who we think we should be." *Because only when we name the truth are we set free.* When we admit the truth, we are admitting that we are broken, need healing and need Jesus. Jesus knows our shame, trauma, pain, brokenness—and offers us healing and redemption.

What would it be like, to walk in freedom and honesty before God? To live in security, like David: knowing that we are fully known, fully seen. We don't have to hide, we don't have to lie, and we don't have to weave a web of deceit.

One of my professors at North Park Theological Seminary, Richard Carlson, used to say, "We sing that 'Jesus loves me, this I know.' But can we also say, 'Jesus knows me, this I love?'"

**Discussion:**

1. What stood out to you in sermon?
2. Is it good news to you that God knows everything about you?
3. How might hidden sin impact our relationship with God and with others?
4. Consider spending time using the Prayer of Examen and looking at the last year:
  - A. Give God thanks for all the things you grateful for from the past year.
  - B. Ask for the Spirit to lead you through an unflinching look at the past year.
  - C. Review and recognize failures and hard moments.
  - D. Ask for forgiveness and healing. Also, ask for wisdom to discern how you might better handle difficult moments in the future.
  - E. Pray about the next year.