

THE LORD KNOWS

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Lesson: Psalm 139:1-12

You know that people who do bad things try to hide those things, so that others won't know that they've done them. A robber doesn't tell people they're a robber, or they might get put in jail. And they try to seem like good people. When they are not stealing things, they pretend they're good and would never do anything wrong.

All people do the same, don't they? If you've done something wrong, you try to hide it, so that people won't know. Especially is this so if you've done something you know you ought to be ashamed of.

If you're very clever, you will sometimes be able to hide what you've done from people. Sometimes a person who steals goes through all their life, and most people think they're good.

But, of course, there is one Person from whom you can't hide anything, and that is the Lord. In the Psalm which we heard in our lesson, the Lord made the person writing it speak, saying how the Lord knows everything a person is doing. The Lord knows what the person is doing when sitting down, and when standing up. The Lord knows what a person is thinking when far from home, when going on a path, or when lying down in bed. In fact, there is not a word in their tongue, that is, there isn't a word that they are going to speak, but the Lord already knows what they are going to say. The Lord is in front of them, the Lord is behind them, and always, He lays His hand upon them, to try to lead them to heaven.

The man whom the Lord was making to write the Psalm goes on to say, How would he get away from the Lord, if he wanted to do evil, and didn't want the Lord to know? If he went to heaven, the Lord is there. If he tried to hide in hell, even there the Lord would be the ruler. If he ran as far as he could across the earth, to the farthest parts of the seas, even there the Lord would be stretching out His hand to lead him. If he tried to hide in the darkness, and do evil in darkness, the Lord can make the darkness seem like day. Darkness does not bother the Lord.

There is no evil we can do that the Lord won't see it.

Now, some bad people will say, "I don't care what the Lord sees. He's not going to hurt me. I'm only worried about the police, and about people on this earth,

who can hurt me. I don't care if the Lord knows I'm doing wrong, as long as I get away with it on this earth, and have all the fun I want." And if they get away with it on this earth, then they think they are very clever.

They are really very stupid, for the fact is that the Lord will have seen all things they have done, right throughout their life, and when they die they are going to come into a world which the Lord rules openly. The Lord is like the policeman and the judge, and the king, and the army, in the other world. He sees that all these things are done by His laws. And, because the Lord knows every little thing that people do, the evil people always get caught out there. So when an evil person dies, and goes into the other world, they find they always get caught, and always get punished. They can never be clever enough. They have been stupid, because they come to love doing things that will always get them punished. They will not be able to be with good people and pretend to be good any longer, because the Lord will let those people know what they are really like, and they will be sent to hell.

So, children, let us not think a person is clever if they do bad things and get away with them. They may fool some people, and seem very clever, but they're never hiding anything from the Lord. That makes them very foolish, because it is what the Lord sees that counts in the end. For the Lord rules the world and heaven and hell, and the person who does what is wrong is going to be punished in the end.

It's much better for us to think that the Lord knows everything, and that He looks into our hearts all the time, in order to help us to have everlasting happiness. Then we should say to ourselves, that we want the Lord to know everything we do, and when we do what is wrong we want Him to see and help us to get rid of those evils. That's like asking Him, as the man who wrote the Psalm asked Him: "Search me, O God" (that is, I want You to search me, O God), "and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts. And see if there be any wicked way in me; and lead me - lead me in the way everlasting." *Amen.*