

Following Christ into the Crucible: How God Transforms Us through Testing – Extra Week

When the Crisis is God Himself!

Psalm 139:1-24

Introduction: In C.S. Lewis' book, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, Aslan (the lion) represents Jesus. And Aslan is described as being dangerous to those who oppose him or take him lightly. At times, God will lead us to a place where we see him in all his glory and majesty (the lion), but it will lead to a crisis of faith. How we work through that crisis will change the quality of our relationship with God.

1. PHASE 1 – David faces a crisis of doubt about God's love. *Psalm 139:1-6*

- A. David meditates on God's infinite knowledge. 139:1-4
 - 1. God knows all my actions. 139:1-2a
 - 2. God knows all my thoughts. 139:2b-3
 - 3. God knows all my motivations. 139:4
- B. Rather than comforting David, these thoughts make him shrink back in fear. 139:5-6
 - 1. He feels that God has hemmed him in like an adversary. 139:5
 - 2. He finds it hard to comprehend how God can relate to him in love. 139:6

2. PHASE 2 – David contemplates running from God. *Psalm 139:7-12*

- A. David's question – Where can I flee from your presence? (It is the idea of fleeing danger.) 3:7
- B. First answer – There is no place *spatially* where we can flee from God. 139:8-10
 - 1. Think about the example of Jonah. *But...*
 - 2. There is no place up place up or down where we can flee from God. 139:8
 - 3. There is no place east or west where we can flee from God. 139:9-10
- C. Second answer – There is no place *spiritually* we can flee from God. 139:11-12
 - 1. David wonders if moral darkness will hide him from God. 139:11
 - 2. David concludes that even moral darkness cannot hide him from God. 139:12

3. PHASE 3 – David works through his doubts by reflecting on God's love in an entirely different way. *Psalm 139:13-18*

- A. David reflects on God's role as his personal creator. 139:13, 15, 16
 - 1. God fashioned his personality like a weaver weaving a tapestry. 139:13
 - 2. God formed his body like a goldsmith crafting a piece of jewelry. 139:15
 - 3. God foresaw David's life like an author writing a book. 139:16
- B. David reflects on God's role as the source of unconditional love. 139:14, 17, 18a
 - 1. Notice that David is beginning to come full circle (precious thoughts) 139:14
 - 2. David marvels at the numerical quantity of God's thoughts. 139:17-18a
- C. Now, David basks in God's presence (in contrast to vs. 7-12). 139:18b

4. PHASE 4 – David now contemplates running with God. *Psalm 139:19-24*

- A. Now, David's passion is that God's kingdom would advance. 139:19-22
 - 1. The problem of "imprecatory" Psalms.
 - 2. If we bring this into the New Testament ethic, we see a different attitude.
 - 3. David's passion is God's kingdom.
- B. Now, David's passion is that he would be a conduit of kingdom advance. 139:23-24
 - 1. David asks God to search him...this time with confidence. 139:23
 - 2. The outcome of the search is that he would be part of the everlasting way. 139:24