**Live as Though the Truth *IS* True**

**By Rev. Dr. Trinette V. McCray**

**Psalm 139:13-18**

1. **INTRODUCTION**

Every calling has circumstances that come along with it. Circumstances are conditions or facts that come along with an event or happening and have some bearing on it. They are determining or modifying factors. They are the adverbs that modify our verbs-- our actions. They are the adjectives that describe our existence—our authentic being. **Circumstances. David lived among circumstances all his life. And so have we. And they seek to define us, destroy us, to deter us.**

* 1. Here David’s adjective was that he was anxious because of a threat.
	2. Psalm 139 leads us to a David struggling with issues of meaning and purpose; vitality and survival; safety and success; faithfulness and fulfillment.
1. **David’s Threat**

The threat was leveled against:

1. his own well-being and
2. that of his family from neighboring leaders who did not want him to succeed in his God-given mission. David is living with an increasing threat which is not only on his life but his call and mission, as well, his life and
3. the life of an entire nation,
4. a people,
5. yes, even a faith and
6. eventually a Church.
7. **Yet, What Did David Know by His Life’s Experience**
8. David knows how God was with him shepherding his father’s sheep.
9. God gave him the strength to kill attacking animals with his own hands.
10. Anointed by Samuel at a young age,
11. Triumphed over giants,Goliath
12. Successful in battle
13. Found the grace of God as a sinner.
14. David knows God’s great grace.
15. But David is fearful…anxious.
16. **So, why is Psalm 139 also for US?**

This Psalm is not here to show us the nature of an anxious servant. Rather it is a significant text that points us toward an all knowing and awesome God. Even more so about the deliberate design of God to secure and protect the work of God’s own hands and the irreversible claim of God’s purpose of a servants’ life.

1. **How are We Like David?**
2. Like David the circumstances that surround our call can leave us anxious about tomorrow even as we have only done what God required of us.
3. ***“Can we talk?”*** Conversations with God break forth as we try to listen for the inner truths and values that are at the heart of our own identity.
4. **TRUST.** We can trust this. We can trust God. Because also like David, God has chosen us to be the ones through which God would continue Kingdom building. It’s a ***Kingdom call.***
5. **God chose us, too!** --*us* to be the ones who would continue what God had started.

**V. Dealing with the “Who Me?”**

1. The “who me” question didn’t originate with you nor with me.
2. Many walked with that question. Have you? Do you?
3. Martin Buber says that “every journey has a secret destination of which the traveler is unaware.”
4. Samuel Proctor in talking about his moral odyssey says, “God in creation forms us partners with God in formation.”
5. Howard Thurman describes this formation process this way. “The life in the seed bursts forth in root and stalk and fruit—the whole process takes place within.
6. **So, Dealing with the Circumstances**
7. So, what is impacting David in Psalms 139 has everything to do with the external circumstances surrounding his calling.
8. God puts circumstances in their place.
9. One of the things that we learn about God in our circumstances is that circumstances *are the stuff that invites grace to become active in our lives.*
10. David prays. “Help me, oh help me, God, my God, save me through your wonderful love; then, they’ll know that your hand is in this; that you, God, have been at work. All along in the shaping of our identities, the giving of our gifts, God is at work, and we are the work of God’s hands, and God’s hand is in this, **whatever** ***your* *this* may be.**
11. **Circumstances are the stuff that invites victory into our lives.**
12. **God will place our circumstances under our feet.**
13. **God addresses external circumstances through internal truths.**
14. **So, What Does this Mean for You and for Me?**
15. Each of us is beautifully and wonderfully made, which means we have been ***distinguished* by our desires, longings and passions.**
16. Our desires serve to overtake our circumstances. No outward circumstances can change—can separate us from God and God’s knowledge of us. Romans 8:37-39
17. In Psalm 139 David releases himself to the truth that in fact he was knit together in his mother’s womb by God. Not only did God give him his passion and desires, but God covered that desire with flesh.
18. The emotion is in the life that lives. It is our vitality. It is vital. “***Absolutely necessary or important; essential.”***
19. David prays to God saying, “In your book, were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.”
20. **So, Again, What Does it Mean for You and Me to Do.” It Means Showing Up**
21. **God has shown up. How?** ***And*** **What Difference Does It Make?**

And to this end, God shows up in our resurrection made possible through the life, death and resurrection of God’s only Son, Jesus who is the Christ.

1. **So…What is your truth?**
* Is it true that Jesus is your Savior? Then stand up, **STAND UP, STAND UP, SHOW UP** and live **boldly in your faith!**