

"O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me." Psalms 139:1.

1-It is in great calamities and overwhelming sorrow that we feel with peculiar vividness God's presence.

2-When Job was in the enjoyment of prosperity he was an eminently reverent man, but it was in the hour of his black and bitter midnight that he cried out, "The hand of God hath touched me." Job 19:21

3-That same spirit is lodged deep in every breast, so that God's searching comes to be associated with hours when life is shaken to its deeps, and when all the daughters of music are laid low.

4-The point to be noted is, that in this Psalm the writer is not thinking of such hours.

1-There is no trace that he has suffered terribly, or been plunged into irreparable loss. .

2-"Thou knowest my downsitting and my uprising"

1-My usual, ordinary, daily life. It was there that the Psalmist recognized the searching; it was there that he woke to see that he was known.

5-"Searched," the figure is, "Winnowed, or Sifted"

1-Henry Ward Beecher said, "Before men we stand as opaque bee-hives. They can see the thought go in and out of us, but what work they do inside of a man they cannot tell.

2-Before God we are as glass bee-hives, and all that our thought are doing within us he perfectly sees and understands.

6-How near the ancient poets of India could get to the thought and feeling to this psalm is indicated in one of their songs:

1-The great lord of these worlds sees as if he were near. (2)-If a man thinks he is walking by stealth, the gods know it all

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## 7-HOW WE ARE SEARCHED.....

1-We are searched and known by the slow and steady passing of the years.....

( There is revealing power in the flight of time---Time is the minister of God)

2-God searches all of us by the responsibilities He lays upon us....

3-Think of those servants in the parable who got the talents. Matt. 25:15.

1-Could you have gauged their character before they got the talents?????

2-They all seemed to be:

1-Respectable and honest, and seemingly worthy of their Master's confidence.

2-

2-The thing that distinguished and revealed the men was the use they made of that responsibility.....

3-They were not searched by what they had to suffer: The men were searched by what they had to do.

3-Once more, God has a way of searching us by lifting our eyes from the detail to the whole.

1-We are all prone to be blinded by detail so that we scarcely realize what we are doing.

2-But the present is so tyrannical and sweet, and the action of the hour is so absorbing, that we cannot see the forest for the trees. .

3-When a man is dimly conscious, he is wrong, he has a strange power of forgetting yesterday. When a man is hurrying

to fulfil his passion, he shuts his ear to the calling of tomorrow. The work of God is to review that yesterday, and tear the curtain from its side to manna and show a man his action of the set in the general story of his life

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