

"God Understands"

Do you ever feel alone and as if no one in the whole world understands how you feel? Hello, I'm Phil Sanders, and this is a Bible study "In Search of the Lord's Way." And today we're going to find the One who understands and loves us. Stay tuned.

Welcome to In Search of the Lord's Way! We're here to search the Scriptures for God's will. Of all our blessings, nothing is more valuable than having a close, loving, personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Knowing that He loves us makes us want to love Him all the more. Knowing that His teaching and His commandments are for our good makes us want to keep His commandments. The Bible provides the wisdom to give you the best kind of life on earth and to give you the hope of heaven. Don't let a day go by without studying the Bible. Thanks for taking time with us today. We want to be a part of your life each week.

Perhaps you remember the famous atheist, Madeline Murray O'Hare? Her diaries were auctioned off several years ago. And when they read through them, they found emphasized in her journals three times the words: "Will somebody, somewhere, please love me?" Many face this kind of loneliness and longing to be understood and loved. Without God in our lives, we often feel alienated and alone. But with God, we can know that we're loved, wanted, and never alone. The last words of the Lord Jesus in Matthew 28 and verse 20 was, "and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." God promises us in Hebrews 13 verse 5, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

You see, with God we have a purpose in life, a peace that passes understanding, a joy inexpressible, and a living hope. With God we have found a love that never ends and never fails. Because Jesus came to this earth, He understands us with all our weaknesses and imperfections. Jesus came to save us from the things that will destroy us. We need Him in our lives more than ever. Do you have the Lord Jesus in your life? Oh, don't miss out on loving your very best friend, your very best friend.

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The Edmond church will now worship in song, we'll read from Psalm 139 verses 1 to 6, and we'll see how God loves and how He understands us.

Our reading today is a Psalm of David, Psalm 139, verses 1 through 6. "O LORD, You have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar. You scrutinize my path and my lying down, And are intimately acquainted with all my ways. Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O LORD, You know it all. You have enclosed me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is too high, I cannot attain to it." That's a tremendous relationship between David and the Father. I hope you have one like that. Let's pray together. Father, we're so grateful that You love us and You understand us, and You know so much about us. Father help us to love You and to want to serve You in a way that pleases You. May Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. In Jesus name, Amen!

A farmer had just relaxed on the front porch when a newsboy delivered the evening paper. The boy noted the sign, "Puppies for Sale." And the boy got off his bicycle and he said to the farmer, "How

much for a puppy, mister?" "Twenty-five dollars, son." And the boy's face dropped, since he had very little money. "Sir, could I at least see them?"

Well the farmer whistled, and in a moment the mother dog came bounding around the corner of the house followed by four cute puppies, wagging their tails and yipping with joy. Well a little later another puppy came straggling around the house, dragging a hind leg. "What's the matter with that puppy, mister?" the boy asked. "Well son, that puppy is crippled. We took her to a vet and the doctor took an X-ray. And she doesn't have a hip joint and that leg will never be right." The boy dropped the bike, reached for his collection bag and took out a fifty-cent piece. "Mister," the boy said, "Please, I want to buy that puppy. I'll pay you fifty cents every week until the 25 dollars is paid. Honest I will, mister."

Well the farmer replied, "But son, you don't seem to understand. That puppy will never, never be able to run or jump. That puppy is going to be a cripple forever. Why in the world would you want puppy like that?" The boy paused for a moment, and then he reached down and he pulled up his pant leg, exposing that all too familiar iron brace and leather knee strap, holding a poor, twisted leg. The boy said, "Mister, that puppy is going to need someone who understands him and loves him."

Perhaps at times you wished someone, just anyone would understand and love you with all your faults and troubles. Friend, there's someone who does! He understands you and will always love you. You may be crippled inside or outside, but He understands. You may be tempted, but He understands. You may have it hard and feel like giving up, but He understands. You may have been hurt and have reason to be angry. My friend, He understands. He knows all about you. He knows what you've been through. He knows how you think. He knows what you've done. He knows all your victories and all your failures. He understands and loves you in spite of it all. Who am I talking about? Jesus, of course!

The Bible says in Hebrews 4 verses 14 to 16, "Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need." Jesus experienced in his short life all the struggles and temptations that we face. He knows what it is to be human, and he also knows what it is to be Divine. He knows what it is to suffer and to be tempted, and He knows what it is to do what is right even when things are utterly difficult.

The Bible in John 2:24 and 25 says that Jesus, "knew all people and He needed no one to bear witness about man, for He Himself knew what was in man." Now as a human, Jesus knew what it was like to be hungry and thirsty. Matthew 4 verse 2, "And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry." While hanging on the cross, Jesus, "knowing that all was now finished, said to fulfill the Scripture, 'I thirst.'" We also know that Jesus grew weary at times. In John 4 verses 5 to 6, the Bible says, "So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Now Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. And it was about the sixth hour." Now Jesus never had a wife, never had any children. His father likely died before his ministry began, leaving him with a mother and several siblings to support. He had a hard life as an itinerant preacher. He was popular to some and hated by others. He never owned a home, He walked everywhere he went, and He knew what it was like to be rejected.

Can you imagine, from the time of your birth people thinking you were illegitimate? Can you imagine the soldiers of King Herod the Great hunting for you to take your life? The Bible says in Matthew 2 and verse 16, "Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men,

became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men.”

Can you imagine your family thinking that you were crazy? The Bible says in Mark 3 verse 21: And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, “He is out of his mind.” Can you imagine your own family and friends refusing to believe you? John 1 and verse 11 says, that “He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.” The people of his home town Nazareth rejected him and even tried to kill him. Mark 6 verses 2 to 6 records this: “And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished, saying, ‘Where did this man get these things? And what is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands? Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?’ And they took offense at him. And Jesus said to them, ‘A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household.’ And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. And he marveled because of their unbelief.”

Can you imagine your disciple and friend selling you out? The Bible says in Matthew 26 verses 14 to 16, “Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, ‘What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?’ And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him.” Can you imagine being betrayed with a kiss?

Can you imagine your close friend and disciple lying about knowing you? The Bible describes the boast of Peter in Matthew 26 verses 33 to 35: “and Peter answered him, ‘Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.’ But Jesus said to him, ‘Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.’ Peter said to him, ‘Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!’ And all the disciples said the same.” But when the pressure came upon them, they did fall away. Peter denied him not once, not twice, but three times; and the last time in the very presence of Jesus.

Can you imagine being asked by your Father to be crucified? The Father sent His Son into this world to sacrifice Himself as an act of love and to deliver us from our sins. It was most difficult for Jesus to face the cross. In Matthew 26 and verse 38 Jesus said, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to the point of death.” The Bible describes his prayer in the garden in Luke 22 and verse 42 this way: “And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling to the ground.”

Can you imagine dying on the cross, bruised and bleeding, while the people around you are mocking you? Matthew 27 verses 41 to 43 says: “So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, ‘He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said’, ‘I am the Son of God.’” Can you imagine remaining silent during all their ugly mockery? Can you imagine being in excruciating pain at the hands of very wicked men and never striking back? 1 Peter 2 and verse 23 says, “When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to Him who judges justly.”

Jesus understands the good and the bad, the easy and the hard, the fair and the unfair. He knows people and He knows churches. You’ll remember in Revelation chapters 2 and 3 that Jesus said to each of the seven churches of Asia, “I know your works.” He knew the positive and the negative. He praised them for the good and rebuked them for the evil. He praised them for their toil, and their perseverance, their sound doctrine, their faithfulness in tribulation, and their willingness to suffer poverty and even blasphemy for the name of Christ, and for how they lived, and how they showed

love, their faith, and their service to the Lord. But He also rebuked them when they left their first love, when they compromised, when they claimed to be alive but had died, and when they were distastefully lukewarm. You see, Jesus knows about your spiritual life, whether you are growing or dying or lukewarm.

Jesus knows when you're tempted and when life has caved in on you. I love God's faithful promise in 1 Corinthians 10 verse 13: "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it." God understands your limits and he will not let temptation and trials so overwhelm you that you cannot endure them. Now when you cannot stand the temptation, the Lord will make a way of escape so that you don't fall into sin. He'll bless you and help you. Now He promises in Hebrews 13:5, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." The God who understands also stands by us to help us through all our struggles.

He knows your victories and your defeats. He also knows your heart. If you love Jesus, He knows it. If you have forgotten Him, He also knows it. If you've let sin come into your life and overcome you, He knows it. Now in spite of all He loves us anyway. He loves us even in our sins and weaknesses. And He still wants us to draw close to Him. To the lukewarm church at Laodicea, the Lord and Savior Jesus said in Revelation 3 and verse 20, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. And if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me." Jesus wants a relationship with you. He wants to be your friend. He took the first step in building that relationship by offering to you and me his love and grace. No matter who you are or what you have done in the past, the Lord's heart is big enough and open enough to forgive you and welcome you into his family, if you are willing to come to him. Oh my friend, won't you come to Jesus today? Let's pray together. Father we pray that each one will come to understand the love and compassion that You, our Father, have for us. And help us to love Jesus and to serve Him. May Your will be done on earth as it is heaven. In Jesus name, Amen!

Some think God couldn't possibly want me to follow Him. My friend, the Lord God created you and loves you. God wants "all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2 and verse 4), and He wants to save you. God sent Jesus into the world to save us from our sins. Yes, sin will cause us to be lost; but God gives us an answer to our problem with sin in the blood of Jesus Christ.

Saul of Tarsus was the chief of sinners, but Christ could still save him. The apostle Paul, that is Saul of Tarsus, said in 1 Timothy 1 verses 15 and 16, that "The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, (and then he says) of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life." I tell you, if God could forgive Saul of Tarsus, He can forgive you too!

Won't you come to him? Why not let God into your life? Won't you demonstrate your faith and love by repenting of your sins, confessing him to be the Christ the Son of God, and by being baptized in water for the forgiveness of your sins? The Lord is looking for you to become His child. The Lord wants you to be born again of water and the Spirit (John 3 and verse 5), and this means being baptized. Galatians 3:26 to 27 says, "for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ." Oh my friend, why not become a child of God today? Don't let another day go by without God in your life. No one understands you and loves you more. You'll never make a better decision than to follow Jesus Christ.

We hope that today's study has reminded you of God's love and compassion. If you live in the United States and want a free printed copy or a CD of this message, mail your request to In Search of the Lord's Way, P.O. Box 371, Edmond, OK 73083 or send an e-mail to [searchtv@searchtv.org](mailto:searchtv@searchtv.org). Or you can call the Search office toll-free at 1-800-321-8633. Now you can download these lessons, and lessons from previous programs, or maybe even a newsletter, there all online at our website: [www.searchtv.org](http://www.searchtv.org). There's also a schedule of our programs and a map with the location of churches, and perhaps one is in your area. Now we also offer free Bible Correspondence courses, because we want everyone to know the word of God. Now if you write to us or call us, don't worry, we're not here to get your money, or to exploit you. We're here to help you get to heaven.

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