

HIDING FROM AN ALL-KNOWING GOD

Hebrews 4:12-16

January 20, 2019

Holiday Island Presbyterian Church

¹² For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. ¹³ Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

INTRODUCTION:

According to the Bible,

**one of our first acts as human beings
was to disobey God.**

**We had been instructed that with one exception,
the entire world was ours.**

The only exception was to not eat the forbidden fruit.

And like children,

**as soon as we were told not to do something
we became fixated on that one thing
and we ended up disobeying God.**

When we realized what we had done,

our next action was to try to hide from God.

I use the term “we” to tell that story

because things have not changed very much –

- we still become fixated on what we ought not to do**
- we end up doing that very thing**
- and then trying to hide from God.**

**It didn't work out so well then,
and it won't work out so well now.**

**If you need a good reference
may I suggest Jonah?
It didn't work out so well for him, either!**

HIDEOUTS:

**I suppose most children
will establish a hideout sooner or later.**

Hideouts.

**According to the *Cambridge English Dictionary*,
a "hideout" is a secret place where someone can go
when he/she not want to be found by other people.**

**It usually refers to a place
where those hiding from the law might use
to avoid discovery and arrest.**

**Jessie James, the Dalton Brothers, Bonnie and Clyde –
they all had their "hideouts."**

**Mine was in the attic of Billy Dixon's garage.
We would sneak up there and smoke cigarettes
then eat an onion
so our parents wouldn't find out.**

**Let's take a look at some common hideouts
we use to try to hide from God.**

**Ever use your family as a hideout?
Oh, that's a good one!**

**Everybody know that families are important to God
and very few would fault someone
for putting their family first.**

**Often when we are called on to do something
we really don't want to do
we "hide" behind our families.**

**"Downtime" is another great hideout.
While it is important to take time to rest –
- that's the purpose of a sabbath –
- it can also be a good hideout.**

**Jesus himself would escape the crowds with His disciples,
in order to become refreshed
for further ministry.**

**If downtime leads to greater ministry –
- more effective ministry –
then it is a good thing.**

**If it is an excuse, to avoid something
to which God is calling you –
- a hideout –
that's not so good.**

**Lest I sound too saintly,
let me include "ministry" as a hideout.**

**Too often pastors – and I include myself in this –
will use the excuse that God has called us to do something
that God never called us to do
in order to avoid doing
what God DID call us to do.**

I'll admit that I have ducked out
on activities I didn't want to do
by using the excuse: "I have to prepare . . ."

Friday, I was fishing with my friend, Mike.
He had caught a few and I had not.
I was getting bored.
I wanted to go home.

I *almost* said to him,
"I have to get back soon.
I have a lot of prep work for Sunday."

Then, I remembered this sermon
and I had to be more honest
admit my boredom and ask to go home.

OMNISCIENCE:

So, ask yourself this question:

"Are you running from the Lord
and hiding out in any of these places?"

Or maybe you have a person hideout
that only you (and the Lord) know about?

There are **NO** hideouts or hideaways
God does not know about!

That's what it means to worship an omniscient God.
A God who sees and knows everything.

If you try to run and hide from God,
you'll eventually come face-to-face with God
at a time and in a place you least expect.

Remember the old song: “O Sinner Man?”

**Relax; I won’t try to sing that for you;
but here are the lyrics.**

**“Oh, sinner man, where you're gonna run to?
Run to the moon, "Moon, won't you hide me?"
Run to the sea, "Sea, won't you hide me?"
Run to the sun, "Sun, won't you hide me all on that day?"**

**Lord said, "Sinner man, moon'll be a bleeding"
Lord said, "Sinner man, sea'll be a sinking"
Lord said, "Sinner man, sun'll be a freezing all on that day"**

**Run to the Lord, "Lord, won't You hide me?"
Lord said, "Sinner man, you should've been a praying"**

That pretty well sums it up, doesn’t it.

**Our God is omniscient: all-seeing and all-knowing.
God has an infinite awareness of all things,
complete and total understanding,
perfect insight into all things.**

**As the Psalmist said in Psalm 147:4-5:
God counts the number of the stars;
God calls them all by name.
Great is our Lord, and mighty in power;
God’s understanding is infinite.”**

In Psalm 139:1-4 David wrote,

**“You have searched me, LORD, and you know me. You know
when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from
afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are**

familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely.”

And **Proverbs 15:3** tells us:

“The eyes of the LORD are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good.”

God sees our actions every minute of the day,
and even though God knows everything about us—
- both good and bad –
God *still* loves us.

God understands how we feel
when we are going through hard times
because God knows our thoughts and feelings.

This Omniscient God who knows every star by name
knows each of us personally and loves us no matter what.

“For the LORD searches every heart and understands every desire
and every thought” (**1 Chronicles 28:9**).

God watches... and asks...

Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see
him? declares the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth?
declares the Lord. **Jeremiah 23:24**

CONCLUSION:

Now I want to repeat something I said a moment ago.

I said:

Our God is omniscient: all-seeing and all-knowing.
God has an infinite awareness of all things,
complete and total understanding,

perfect insight into all things.

There is a very important part of that definition.

**Along with an infinite *awareness* of all things,
God has complete and total *understanding*!**

In the Book of Hebrews, Chapter 4 – verses 14-16:

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

**That is why God is able to love us
even when we do not love God!**

**We are loved even though we may run from God
and try to hide from God
and try to remove God from our decisions.**

**Knowing this limitless love God has for each of us,
we should strive to be a follower, not a fugitive.**

We should run *to* the Lord, not *away* from the Lord.

We should hide *in* the Lord, not *from* the Lord.

**In other words,
when the Lord sees you next,
may He see your face, not your back.**