

IS THERE ANYONE WHO CARES FOR ME?

(green boat in a storm)

Is there anyone who cares when we are lonely, and facing grief?

-closest friends often prove untrustworthy.

-when lonely, often even close relatives aren't helpful.

-we must face very lonely griefs.

Who doesn't wish there was someone who would be trustworthy, be our companion in times of our grief, who would not be fickle, who would want the best for us? The only one who can fulfill this desire for us is God.

Everyone must worry about their own matters. So they cannot fully understand another person's problems. However God is our Creator. And the one who knows the depths of our hearts best of all. He wants to always have us near to Him. We can be close to God in this way if we have purified our hearts. Having repented of our sins and asked for forgiveness sincerely. If two people are close friends, and if one hides matters from the other, they cannot have a close friendship. So too we can have a close relationship with God after we have confessed all our sin and asked forgiveness.

This book contains a prayer of the prophet David, made during a time when he faced loneliness and grief. He faced many problems and difficulties. Let's make this the prayer of our hearts also. And just as God heard David, for certain He will hear our prayer.

Oh God! Lord, You know the depths of my heart. And You know full well everything about me. You know when I sit and when I get up. Lord, You even know my thoughts. Lord, You know the motives behind everything I do. And You are familiar with all my habits. My habits are well known to you, Lord. Before a word leaves my tongue, Lord, You know what I want to say. You watch me from all sides. Your hand, Lord, is on my life. No human being is able to comprehend how much you know. I cannot grasp the greatness of your thoughts and understanding. Where can I go to hide from you, Lord? Where can I run to be far from your presence? Even if I were to go to the deepest depths, you would be there. Even darkness is no obstacle to you. Even if I was in

the midst of darkness, you would be able to see me as though I was in the daylight. Lord, You know me, every part, even into the deepest depths of my heart. Lord, you are the one who created me in my mother's womb. I praise you. You made me in a wonderful, complete way. I am completely convinced that you do things in miraculous ways While my body was being formed, even then you saw me Lord. You saw my formless body. Even before I began my first day in the world, you had planned my life. O God! Your thoughts and plans are precious to me. Your thoughts and plans are beyond number. They number more than all the grains of sand on the earth. Even if I fall asleep out of exhaustion with trying to grasp the extent of your greatness, when I awake again I am still surrounded by that greatness. O God! Study me deeply. Look closely at the desires in my heart. Test my thoughts and aspirations, reveal to me all the qualities in my heart and mind that you disapprove of. Then I will turn from them. And keep me on your eternal straight path.

[most of Psalm 139]

God made us perfectly. However because we disobeyed Him, His qualities in our personalities have become damaged.

In the beginning, God made a garden for humans on the earth. He put tasty fruit-bearing healthy plants in that garden. He placed springs of water and rushing streams there. He created humans in a sinless perfect way. He put humans in that garden, and gave humans charge of that garden.

He gave humans one prohibition. He said to them, "you are allowed to eat from all the plants in this garden. But don't eat the fruit from the plant giving the wisdom to discern between good and evil. For if you eat of that fruit for sure you will die."

But Satan, in the form of a snake, came to that garden. One day the snake said to the woman. "Are you sure that God forbade you to eat from any of the plants in this garden?"

The woman said to the snake. "He gave us permission to eat from all the plants in this garden. He only forbade us to eat from one

plant. Because if we even touch that plant, we would die.”

Satan, lying there in the form of a snake, said to the woman. “That’s a lie. For sure you all won’t die. God commanded that by eating the fruit of that plant your eyes will be opened and you will become just like Him, knowing good and evil as He does.”

They looked at the fruit of that plant, and realizing that it would be tasty, was so attractive, and would give them wisdom through eating it, they craved it. Then they picked fruit from that plant and ate it.

They disobeyed God. They disobeyed the prohibition God had given them. They were deceived by the word of their adversary, Satan, and disobeyed their loving Creator. And the close relationship that was meant to be between God and all of humankind was destroyed. And death spread among humankind.

However God did not destroy humankind. He gave them another chance to restore the relationship with Him to its former closeness. This time the choice is left to us.

If we ask, we can have a close relationship with God, with no obstacles between us. The obstacle between us and God is our disobedience and sin. Because of our sinfulness, all us humans have become unclean. But God Himself has come to the world, to us. And became the sacrifice necessary to wipe away our sin.

Even after our Lord God came to the world, to us, still we have disobeyed Him. God came

in the form of a human. He came to the world He created, to the humans He created. Jesus the Messiah is the appearance of God coming to the world in the form of a human. Jesus the Messiah is the bridge to cross the obstacles between us and God due to our sin.

God doesn’t want the humans He created to perish. So He came to the world in the form of one of us humans to offer us a second chance. He came to the world as Jesus not to condemn us. But to save us. To give us eternal life.

Let’s get rid of this distance between us and God, be saved from our sin, take this second chance that God gives us. And let’s pray, asking God to give His eternal life to us.

(prayer on back:)

Oh God! I have rebelled against You, and sinned in my heart, my actions, my words. I sincerely sorrow for the sins I have done and repent of them. And I am grateful that You, Lord, have wiped away my sins because of Jesus.

Oh God -- please get rid of the distance between me and You. Please give me a close relationship with You. I have prayed this in Jesus' name. Amen.

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