

John 1:43-51

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." ⁴⁹Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle created that great character Sherlock Holmes. Sherlock had the ability to look at a person and "read them" so that he knew where they had been and what they had been doing and even what their need was.

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The Psalmist wrote in Psalm 139 these words,

PS 139:1 O LORD, you have searched me and you know me.

PS 139:2 You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.

PS 139:3 You discern my going out and my lying down you are familiar with all my ways.

PS 139:4 Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD.

PS 139:5 You hem me in--behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me.

PS 139:6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

The God who the Psalmist knew was the God who in Jesus took on human form and was able to understand Nathaniel at a glance. The same God who understands and knows each one of us better than we know ourselves yet still loves us.

Our God knows us, loves us and is more aware of our needs, and even our wants and our desires, than we are. When the true and deepest desire of our heart is to see the glory of the Kingdom come into being, when we seek God's Kingdom before anything else all else we need will be supplied to us. (Matthew 6:33)

As children are growing up some parents may say to their children "God is watching you," to some it is said as a threat to others it is said as a word of comfort.

How do you feel about God knowing all about you? Are you fearful or comforted? Drawn to repentance for cleansing and forgiveness and desiring to hide whilst knowing you cannot, reassured that all will be well?

The God who revealed himself in Jesus is the God of grace, comfort, mercy and love as well as being a God of judgement, truth and justice but as we have heard on many occasions he is more ready to forgive than we are to confess.

Allow this God to draw near to you, be aware of his presence, and maybe even introduce someone else to him not that they might be frightened but know that they also are loved.