



Title | realbook: Who Am I Really?
Text | Psalm 139:13-15, Isaiah 49:13-17
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Sermon Notes

Psalm 139:13-15

¹³For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works, my soul knows it very well. ¹⁵My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

Isaiah 49:13-17

¹³Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the LORD has comforted his people and will have compassion on his afflicted. ¹⁴But Zion said, "The LORD has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me." ¹⁵"Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. ¹⁶Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before me. ¹⁷Your builders make haste; your destroyers and those who laid you waste go out from you.

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Big Idea:

Isaiah 49:16
Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands;
ESV

For Reflection & Application:

Monday:

In this age of social media, we are often inundated by continual pictures and posts of everyone else's highlights. While they may be fun to see, they may also cause us to compare those facebook highlights with our "realbook" images, the far less glamorous images of our own lives, often leading to discouragement and feeling that there's something wrong with us. With or without social media, it is easy to allow the world to define our worth, a definition that often leaves us feeling worthless. So how then do we define our worth? Should the world be the one to define it for us? Read 1 Corinthians 3:18-20. What does it say about the wisdom of the world?

Tuesday:

The world sometimes defines our worth is by "association", judging us by such things as where you work, what school you attended, where you live, what family you came from? The interesting thing is that our worth really can be defined by association. The problem is that we are not going far back enough in time. Way, way back to before we were even born. Much like a Picasso painting, which is worth millions because of who held the paintbrush, our important association comes from who formed us before our mothers gave birth. Read Psalm 139:13-15. The association that defines your worth is the creator of the universe, who created you with great love and care.

Wednesday:

The world also defines us by our assets. Such things as our looks, finances, position, achievements, personality are valuable to this world. Yet before we turn away from this line of thinking, perhaps what we really need to do is look deeper into it. Perhaps the reason those things are important to the world is because we errantly feel that having those things will bring us the real "assets" that we crave: to be genuinely loved, to be freed up to experience joy, to be able to lay down all of our troubles and find peace. Read John 14:27 & Galatians 5:22-23. God gives us the real assets that we need, and not the empty ones that leave us wanting more.

Thursday:

The "desirability" factor weighs heavily into the world's definition of worth. We see it in social media terms of "likes" and "followers". It is our popularity, our "trade value". Trade value can vary widely – like when a \$5 book at a garage sale is sold for thousands of dollars. The real trade value must be determined by an expert, an authority. Read Romans 5:8 and 1 Corinthians 6:20. God defined your trade value by paying the ultimate price for you: Christ's punishment and death on the cross.

Friday:

Read Isaiah 49:13-17. Perhaps the first tattoo described in verse 16? People sometimes get a tattoo of the names of those most precious to them. So, God inscribing you on the palm of His hands shows what he thinks of you. You are precious to Him!

Daily Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you revealing to me the truth of who I am. Now I realize that I am worth so much to you because you have made me your precious child. I cannot comprehend the depths to which you have given everything to love me and make a way for me to be with you. I feel so loved and have found peace in you.