



SUNDAY SERMON

RECAP

28 June 2026

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Sermon Notes

Sermon Title: Fearfully and wonderfully made

Pastor: Bruce Taylor

Key Scripture: Psalm 139:13-18

1. Formed in love.

Psalm 139 is a Psalm of David. David knew that He was fearfully and wonderfully made. He had a divine revelation of Heavenly Father knitting him together in His mother's womb. And he thanked and praised God.

He knew that the days of his life were not his own to determine, that his days were appointed by the Lord before one of them came to be. David even had a revelation of the preciousness and vastness of the thoughts God's had towards him. His identity was rooted in how God saw Him and thought about Him. And because of this David was free to live fully and wholeheartedly for God.

Acts 13:22 (AMP)

He raised up David to be their king: of him He testified and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart [conforming to My will and purposes], who will do all My will.' The NIV says, ... "he will do everything I want him to do."

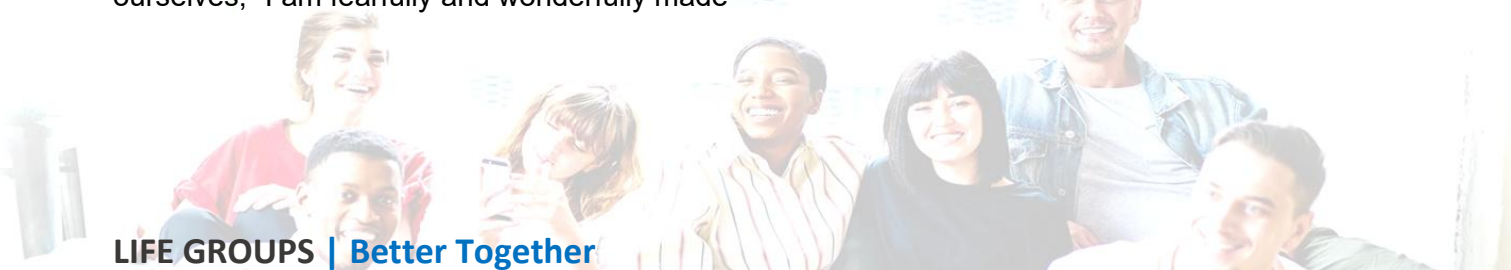
God carefully formed David in love, creating Him with a divine purpose. The Israelites were precious to God. A people that He called His own. He wanted them to live devoted and holy lives. To be an example to the nations around them of a people who knew and loved the living God. But the Israelites were prone to stray. They would get entangled in the cultures and beliefs of ungodly nations. So the Lord gave them a shepherd King in David, someone who could bring them back to the Lord, their great Shepherd.

Psalm 78:72 (NIV) says,

"And David shepherded them with integrity of heart; and with skilful hands he led them."

David had a special place in God's heart. But so does each one of us. Each one of us was formed in God's love, carefully watched over by the Father as He knit us together in our mother's wombs.

Every day we can wake up and give Him thanks and praise! Every day we can wake up and say to ourselves, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made"



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2. Freed by love

We live in a fallen and broken world, and there are so many things that can ensnare us. Just like the Israelites, we can find ourselves straying and getting caught up with the cares and sins of the world.

The Father is the same yesterday, today and forever. And just as He gave the Israelites a shepherd king with a heart after God, He has given you and me a Shepherd King, Jesus, who came to set us free.

Earlier this year, the Lord gave me a picture of some yarn or wool. It was tangled and knotted; it couldn't be used for the purpose it has been created for. Before someone would be able to knit or crochet or embroider with it, they would need to take time to untangle it and free every knot.

In **Psalm 139:23-24** (NIV) David prayed:

Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. ²⁴ See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

We need to pray this prayer, and then yield to the Lord, so that He can sort out the knots and tangles in our lives.

How knotted and tangled are you?

I believe the Lord is going to use our year of rest to untangle us, so that we are free to live fully and wholeheartedly for Him. Because when we quieten our hearts, and rest in God's presence, we will remember again how Jesus set us free.

There is much value in the spiritual disciplines of silence, solitude, Bible reading and prayer. Of spending time in the secret place with the Father, where we can focus on Jesus, and become sensitive to the Holy Spirit.

When we do this the Scriptures can minister to our hearts, especially verses about what the Lord has done to purchase our freedom.

Romans 5:8 (NIV)

"But God demonstrated His love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)

"For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

Ephesians 1:7 (NIV)

"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace."





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Revelation 1:5 (NIV)

"And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood."

John 8:36 (NIV)

So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

In our Catch the Fire school of ministry, there are a number of teachings on the Father Heart of God by a man named Barry Adams. One of the most profound of these, is a teaching titled, "Glorious Freedom."

Barry makes the following statements:

"Father God wants to set you free from anything that wants to enslave you."

"Father God wants you to be free from anything that would cause you to feel afraid."

"Father God's ferocious love is against the works of the enemy."

And then he quotes **1 John 4:18**, "There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear."

Barry encourages us to search our hearts and pray, "Father, is there anything in my heart that is causing me to be enslaved and preventing me from experiencing the glorious freedom you have for me."

When we spend time in the secret place, in God's presence, there will be times when the Holy Spirit will remind us of our part to play in walking in freedom.

Galatians 5:1 (NIV)

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Hebrews 12:1-2a (NIV)

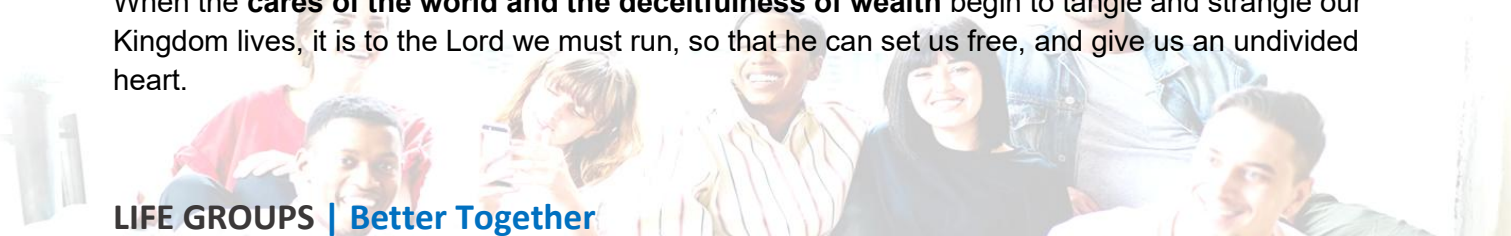
Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ²fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

Romans 6:11 (NIV)

In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

We are so blessed. There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. The Lord has saved us. He has forgiven us. When the enemy accuses us before the Father, we know that God will declare, "Paid for in full by the blood of My Son Jesus."

When we stumble and fall, we can go to Him without fear. We can confess our **sins**, knowing that He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). When the **cares of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth** begin to tangle and strangle our Kingdom lives, it is to the Lord we must run, so that he can set us free, and give us an undivided heart.





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When people put their **labels** on us saying, “You are not good enough,” or you should be this, or should be that; we can go to the Father and listen to what He says about us.

There is so much **comparing and criticising** in our world. When we are on the receiving end of criticism and labels, we can find our “wool” getting tangled and knotted. And when we find ourselves criticising others and dishing out labels, we need the Lord to untangle and unknot us, in an even greater way.

God wants us to love others, He wants us to recognise their unique gifts and contributions, and to speak life. We can only do this when we are set free by His love.

Galatians 2:20 (AMP)

I have been crucified with Christ [that is, in Him I have shared His crucifixion]; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. The *life* I now live in the body I live by faith [by adhering to, relying on, and completely trusting] in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

3. Fashioned for love

Have you ever thought and pondered on the ease with which Jesus walked on earth. He was perfectly free! And because of that He was able to love freely.

Wherever He went, He had time for people. And what’s even more amazing, is that He had capacity for people. Emotional capacity. Spiritual capacity. Capacity to love them.

Think about the Samaritan woman at the well, rejected by her community, and more than likely bitter in heart. Yet Jesus found her, and loved her, and saved her. And the man possessed by a legion of demons. Jesus sought him out, loved him and set him free. Remember Zaccheus the tax collector. A thief and an outcast. Jesus looked up at him in the tree, and loved him. He invited himself to Zaccheus’s home, and that visit transformed Zaccheus’s life.

Jesus spent time in the secret place with His Father. Often! And He lived a life of love.

In **John 13:34-35 (NIV)** Jesus said,

‘A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.’

Now we all know that it can be difficult to love some people.

Can you think of someone you know, that is difficult to love? Let these Scriptures wash over you.

1 John 4:11-12 (NLT)

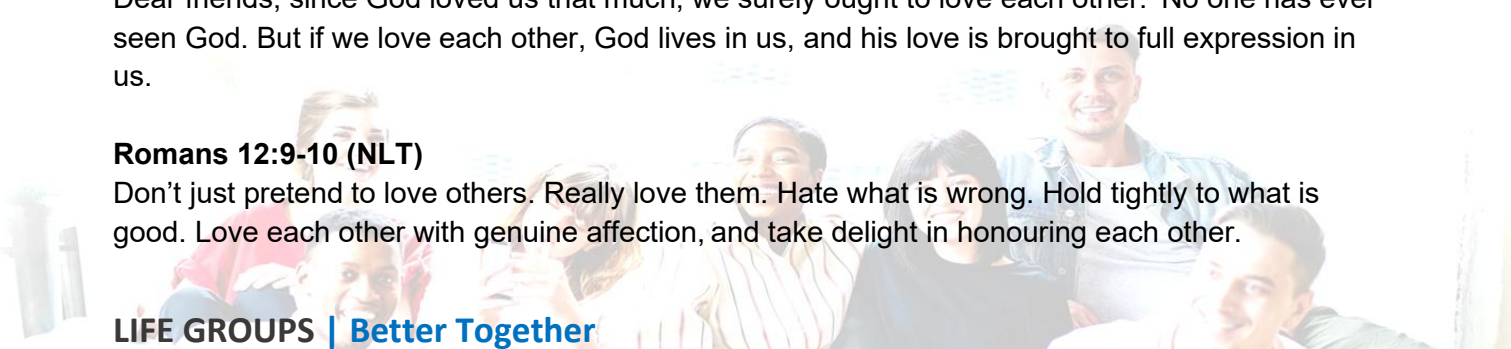
Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us.

Romans 12:9-10 (NLT)

Don’t just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honouring each other.

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Luke 6:27-28 (NLT)

“But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you.”

God has created and fashioned us to live lives of love. And we need Him to wash us with His Word, and fill us with His Spirit, so that we can love well and consistently.

In essence we shouldn't have to use effort to love. We shouldn't have to psyche ourselves up to love. Love should flow from within us to those around us.

Dallas Willard, in his book titled “A life without lack,” said the following:

“Our aim under love is not to be loving to this or that person, or in this or that kind of situation, but to be a person full of love as an overall character of life. I do not come to my enemies and try to love them; I come to them as a loving person. The good tree bearing good fruit.”

He goes on to say:

“Remember, deeper than the fact that God loves us is this, HE IS LOVE. He wills nothing but what is good. That is His identity, and it explains why He loves individuals even when He is not pleased with them or loved by them in return.”

Jesus restored Peter in love. Peter who had betrayed and abandoned Him. He didn't have to try hard to love Peter. Jesus is love. Loving Peter flowed from His heart.

And because of this He could commission Peter, “Peter do you agape love me?” Yes Lord Peter answered. Feed my sheep.

Prayer (By Dallas Willard)

“Lord Jesus Christ, we are so thankful to You that You said, “Fear not little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom.”

We are so thankful for the ease with which You walked upon this earth, the generosity and kindness You showed to people, the devotion with which You cared for those who were out of the way and in trouble, the extent to which You even loved your enemies and laid down Your life for them.

We are so thankful to believe that this is a life for us; that You have promised that same love, that same life, that same joy, that same power for us.

Lord, come to us today. Get past our defences, our worries, our concerns. Gently open our souls, and speak Your Word into them.”

In Jesus name,
Amen.



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