

# He Already Knows...and Loves Us Anyway

(10/26/25)

Please turn to *Hebrews 4:12-13*.

TODAY I want to **talk about Mercy**...have any of you men ever played it before? Two guys grip each others' hands and attempt to bend his opponents hands back until he cries "mercy!" because it hurts. Think on that: the one whose overcome must depend completely upon the mercy of his opponent or suffer terrible pain and humiliation.

Before we talk about mercy, though, we need to have an incredibly uncomfortable reality check: **Jesus already knows everything**. What we hide from others, the secrets we keep, and worst of all the fatal flaw within us that threatens to drive everyone away from us should they see it.

**I've recently been reading about Detachment Theory** and it goes like this: if our parents were neglectful or abusive, we become emotionally detached. Maybe your dad was gone all the time or walked out completely. Maybe your mom was too wrapped up in her own problems and drama to properly love you. Perhaps someone in your life who should have protected you abused you instead, or allowed someone else to.

A person suffering from these things begins to believe **something is wrong with them**...otherwise the people who were supposed to love and protect them wouldn't be treating them this way or letting others abuse them. They start to believe they have some fatal flaw programmed within them that draws darkness and evil from others.

**This affects their relationships**, especially dating and marriage. They're afraid that if their spouse or anyone else sees this fatal flaw, they will flee from them, leaving them abandoned and alone. So they do everything in their power to hide it.

**A relationship with Jesus is a terrifying** concept because they've been told Jesus already knows everything...because He's God. If He knows everything, then He can see the thing inside of them that seems to attract abuse and neglect from others. The thought of God Himself abandoning them is too much to bear.

***In 1997 I had what started out as a terrible experience:*** I met Jesus. He was real, as real as anyone in this room. I found myself falling to my knees before Him and calling Him "Lord"—something I was against.

He wasn't looking at me in a gentle way, but more like **Clint Eastwood** in one of his classic westerns when he was about to get into a gun fight. I was scared because I'd never seen Him portrayed this way. I was used to the classic "Garden of Gethsemane" look in the classic painting and less of this Revelation 1 King and Lord version that I seemed to be getting.

Then a horrible thing happened that made me more scared than I'd ever been in my life, before or since. **He saw all my secrets.** All the things I'd been hiding from everyone else, the skeletons in my closet, dark thoughts and feelings I kept under wraps, and worst of all the **fatal flaw** I seemed to have programmed into my psyche that I couldn't overcome. The skeletons and darkness were the product of this fatal flaw that seemed to be a part of me, a part that no exorcist could ever cast out.

**I was desperate that no one knew about this part of me,** especially when I started dating. The dates I went on were a disaster—every one of them. Reason was I trying so hard to be someone they would like. I was so afraid that if they saw the thing that writhed within my core, they would run from me as if I had super Covid. Sitting across from them on a first date I was nervous and guarded, uncomfortable in my own skin. All my suspicions seemed to be confirmed when I would ask for a second date and she would say she was busy that night, etc. *No doubt she saw the fatal flaw within me and wanted nothing to do with me.*

In 1997 **I'm kneeling before the Lord of all creation,** the Maker of the heavens and earth...and **the look on His face is like flint.** This isn't a dream or even a nightmare I can wake up from and breathe a sigh of relief at: *He's really there and I'm being judged.*

**I realized nothing can be hidden from Him.** There's no place I had hide the thing inside me and all its dark produce. I can't distract Him to look somewhere else. He draws it out of me—all of it—and I'm powerless to stop Him. It all comes out for Him to see—literally ever bad thing I'd ever done, said, and even THOUGHT, since I was a baby plays out in 4K for Him to watch. What was even worse is all the hurt my fatal flaw had caused others—from strangers to people I claimed to love. *He saw everything.*

**When it was finally done I started screaming**—a pathetic, desperate plea for **mercy.** I tried telling him I had no idea of how sinful I really was and how that had damaged so many others. **I was at Judgment.** Christians had tried preaching the Gospel to me before this and they warned me that, if I didn't have Jesus as my Savior, if I rejected His saving grace, **I would go to Hell.** I didn't believe them before, but at that moment, after He saw everything about me, I realized I was. I fully believed He was about to pass sentence on me and that it was too late for me to try and undo anything.

**In a moment like that, when we try and play “mercy” with God, we’re the ones bent backward and driven to our knees. All we can do is cry “mercy!” and hope He relents.**

**Mercy isn’t something we can earn or inspire:** it’s an act of grace that needs to *come completely from the Judge or whatever authority figure has the power to decide our fate.*

**He or she must find mercy within themselves because all our words and actions have led us only to condemnation and punishment.**

**Kneeling there before the King of kings, I thought I had no chance.** After seeing all the evil inside me, how could Jesus possibly do anything other than condemn me? I deserved Hell, whatever that really looks like. So I clutched the sides of His knees, bowed my head all the way to the ground in obeisance, and begged for mercy.

He leaned over me and as He did so, *His long hair covered my entire head.* It covered the back, the sides, and I saw and felt it come over my forehead, over my eyes. In the moment all my fear of being cast out, punished, and sent to Hell just disappeared...instantly. I stopped screaming and begging for my life and felt more peace than I ever have, before or after. I wanted to stay there forever.

**He’d forgiven me. 8 years later I was being ordained as a pastor in this church.**

**He already knows. Whatever we’re hiding, whatever secrets we keep, whatever skeletons are in our closets.**

He already knows. **The fatal flaw deep inside of us**, writhing around like a snake in our guts. The one that’s caused other people to leave and abandon us. To end relationships they said would be forever. He sees it and we can’t hide it from Him.

**[Heb 4:12-13 ESV]** 12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. 13 And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

**Verse 12** is what God has written in the Bible and look at its qualities: it's a sharp spiritual and emotional sword that cuts both ways. Its purpose is to reveal right and wrong **WITHIN** us. To divide the two. Jesus and Paul gave the following example: there's the dough for a loaf of bread, then there's the "leaven" which is essentially yeast. Both said: "a little leaven spoils the whole loaf" and if you've ever baked bread, you know it only takes 1-2 tsp of yeast to make the entire loaf puff up full of air.

Jesus compared the false teachings of the Pharisees to **yeast**, saying God is the One Who gives the pure loaf, and the Pharisees were puffing it up with their teachings. Both Jesus and Paul told us to "remove" the yeast/leaven from the loaf.

This is what the Sword of the Spirit does: **it exposes the yeast inside of us that has puffed us up full of hot air.** It divides/separates falsehood from God's truth and gives us the chance to throw away the yeast.

In John's Gospel chapter 1, Jesus is called the living Word of God so therefore He does everything the Bible does when read. Now look at verse 13: **nothing is hidden from Him**, He knows it all, and He is our Judge. We must "give account" to Him.

It doesn't do any good to try and hide anything from Him. What's more is that He's not just "letting things go." **He's not "turning a blind eye."** I bring you now to some verses that are normally applied to atheists but have a broader meaning:

**[Psa 10:4-11 ESV]** 4 In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek him; all his thoughts are, "There is no God." 5 His ways prosper at all times; your judgments are on high, out of his sight; as for all his foes, he puffs at them. 6 He says in his heart, "I shall not be moved; throughout all generations I shall not meet adversity." 7 His mouth is filled with cursing and deceit and oppression; under his tongue are mischief and iniquity. 8 He sits in ambush in the villages; in hiding places he murders the innocent. His eyes stealthily watch for the helpless; 9 he lurks in ambush like a lion in his thicket; he lurks that he may seize the poor; he seizes the poor when he draws him into his net. 10 The helpless are crushed, sink down, and fall by his might. 11 He says in his heart, "God has forgotten, he has hidden his face, he will never see it."

This applies to more than someone who doesn't believe in God, **but to anyone who sins and believe God is just "letting it go."** Look at all the evil the man in Psalm 10 is doing and his false conclusion is verse 11: God isn't watching/doesn't see.

**He does see...everything.**

5 years ago I attended a **pastor's conference at FLN** and there were about 400 of us there. The speaker said “would any of you give permission for my ministry to set up video cameras in your homes, record for a month, then play them for your congregation?” None of us raised our hands and there were more than a few uncomfortable chuckles.

**With all our hidden sin and darkness revealed to a holy God,  
how can anyone be Saved?**

**The answer is MERCY.**

I told you about mercy in the beginning of today's message: *it must come from within the authority figure who has the power to decide our fate*. Why? Because we've messed things up, completely. We've been exposed.

**We have nothing to rely on except the goodness, the kindness, and love of the person about to judge us.**

So what we need—desperately—**is for Jesus to have mercy**. To have so much of it within Him that, when we're completely naked before Him with no way to cover up, that mercy will be His response.

We've already read *Hebrews 4:12-13* about the sword of the Spirit and all our dark secrets and fatal flaw being exposed to Jesus...*now let's the read the verses right after it to find the remedy to this horrible problem.*

**[Heb 4:14-16 ESV]** 14 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

**Verse 14:** Jesus is more than the righteous Judge Who will judge us, He is also our divine High Priest of the heavens. Let's understand what this means to us and I'll use myself as the example. I've already told you that once He exposed all my sins, I was left with nothing else but to beg and plead for mercy.

**The High Priest does the same on behalf of the people.**

The Jews just got done celebrating the Fall Feasts a few weeks ago and here's what the celebrated: the High Priest going into the Temple, into the presence of God Himself, and sacrificing a goat. After the HP sprinkles the blood of the goat onto the Ark, **he pleads with God on behalf of the people to have mercy...to forgive all sins.**

**The New Covenant is totally rigged...in our favor.**

In *favor of the people who've been exposed to God*, whose secrets have been laid bare before Him, in whose fatal flaw has been revealed in all its darkness!

Here's how its rigged in our favor: **the Judge is also our advocate, our defense lawyer, the one Who pleads for mercy on our behalf!**

**The same One Who knows all of our sins**, every wrong thing we've ever done, said or thought. The same One Who knows how all these sins have hurt others. The same One Who went to the Cross, bled, and died because of those sins...also pleads on our behalf as our High Priest.

Thus when we appear before Christ, broken and leaking, with nothing good to show for our salvation. When we kneel before Him with nothing more than a beg for mercy and forgiveness, **we are actually agreeing with Him.**

**Verse 15:** *He DOES sympathize.* He came here as a Man, born in a normal human body just like mine and yours. He was subject to all the same temptations as we are and remember: "temptation" isn't just enticement of sin. It's also getting too cold, too hot, hungry, thirsty, tired, etc. He experienced it all.

While He never gave into it and remained sinless, *He gets us when we come to Him after we have.*

Verse 16 is the best news of all: after we've sinned, after we've made the bad choice, and after its been exposed, **a believer can APPROACH God.**

Hold on! Before Jesus, *only the priests were allowed to "approach" God* in the Temple and that was only after dressing a certain way, going through ritualistic steps, and making sure their hearts were pure! It was a rigorous process because God demanded a person be holy and pure before they stood in His presence.

His demands are exactly the same now as then...and *what's changed is that we've been forever cleansed by the blood of Christ!* We're already wearing the right clothes, called the robes of Salvation! We're already His sons and daughters!

**Thus even after a major mess up on our parts, we can and should APPROACH God.**

There's a meme I've seen and I'm not going to get it exactly right...it goes something like this:  
*"If you're in trouble because of sin, God is Father you can call instead of one you have to avoid."*

Think about that. Did you have a dad or mom who would punish you if you got in trouble at school or with the cops? Or did you have a dad or mom who would come get you, scoop you up, bring you home, and care for you?

**Verse 16: When we go to God hoping for grace and mercy, we find grace and mercy!!!**

He's not waiting with a hammer, but with a heart of compassion and understanding.

Do you need to call your Heavenly Father? Have you been avoiding Him? He already knows everything. **It's time to approach.**

***Lamentations 3:22-23 (ESV)***

***The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;  
his mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.***