



## Sermon Discussion Guide

05.22.22 Message | Tyler Myers | Jeremiah 23:33-40

### Key Scriptures:

*“Am I a God at hand, declares the Lord, and not a God far away? Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the Lord.”*

- Jeremiah 23:23-24

*“When one of these people, or a prophet or a priest asks you, ‘What is the burden of the Lord?’ you shall say to them, ‘You are the burden, and I will cast you off, declares the Lord.’ And as for the prophet, priest, or one of the people who says, ‘The burden of the Lord,’ I will punish that man and his household. Thus shall you say, every one to his neighbor and every one to his brother, ‘What has the Lord answered?’ or ‘What has the Lord spoken?’ But ‘the burden of the Lord’ you shall mention no more, for the burden is every man’s own word, and you pervert the words of the living God, the Lord of hosts, our God. Thus you shall say to the prophet, ‘What has the Lord answered you?’ or ‘What has the Lord spoken?’ But if you say, ‘The burden of the Lord,’ thus says the Lord, ‘Because you have said these words, “The burden of the Lord,” when I sent to you, saying, “You shall not say, ‘The burden of the Lord,’” therefore, behold, I will surely lift you up and cast you away from my presence, you and the city that I gave to you and your fathers. And I will bring upon you everlasting reproach and perpetual shame, which shall not be forgotten.”*

- Jeremiah 23:33-40

*Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.*

- Psalm 51:6

*Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.*

- Proverbs 4:23

*“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.”*

- Matthew 7:24-25

**Message Highlights:**

- One of the most far away realms is the realm within our soul.
- Division starts within us in the secret places!
- David was a man with plenty of tensions within his secret places and demonstrates what it looks like to give God access to those places.
- No regrets becomes no repentance, which destroys maturing our oneness with God, wholeness within oneself and unity with others.

**Conversation Starter:**

Did telling and keeping secrets as a child ever get you into trouble? What do you think was appealing about being secretive?

**Discuss the Message:**

1. God declares he is near to us and that man cannot hide himself from God in Jeremiah 23:23; what can it look like to try to hide yourself from God?
  - a) What has it felt like when you tried to hide something from God?
  - b) How does knowing that God sees us even in our secret places encourage you?
  - c) Does it bother you that God sees you, even in your secret places? Why or why not?
  - d) How can we add an intentional pause in our routines to check in with our souls or “secret places”?
2. From where do the springs of life flow, according to Proverbs 4:23?
  - a) What does it look like to keep your heart with all vigilance?
  - b) Why do we need to be vigilant in order to effectively protect our hearts?
  - c) How does what you give your attention to either build you up or tear you down?
3. David exemplifies providing God access to his secret places, even amidst plenty of tensions.
  - a) What wisdom has God taught you when you’ve allowed him into the secret places of your heart?
  - b) What does it look like for us to delight in truth in your inward being (Psalm 51:6)?
  - c) How have divisions sprouted up within you when you’ve failed to allow God the access to us he longs for?

**Pray:**

*God, we are humbled by the ways you see us and care for us, even in our secret places. We acknowledge and repent of the times that we try to hide from you; we know in our hearts that it is through vulnerability that we find liberation in you and your word. Thank you for choosing us and delighting in us even when we don't see ourselves as you do. We ask that you would help us to be mindful of providing you access to our whole selves this week. It's in your son Jesus' name we pray, Amen.*