

### Sewing Devotion 3

The Scripture has an amazing number of references to sewing. I think that is because clothing is a basic necessity, so making or at least finding something that has been made, is understandable to all of us. We looked at the beginning of that necessity and we talked about the most famous seamstress in the Scripture—God. We saw that God sewed for Adam and Eve when they were inadequate to sew for themselves. His provision of animal skin garments to cover them demonstrated his love and care for them, even in their sin.

One of my favorite activities is to sit down at the end of the day and watch the TV show Jeopardy. I try to stretch my tired, old brain and answer as many questions as I can. You might find it comical to be at my house during this half-hour as my husband and I each shout out random answers to see who can guess first.

Not too many weeks ago, there was a category about sewing. I thought it would be a slam-dunk to answer the questions in this column but early on, like the \$200 row, there was a clue whose answer required a sewing term I had never heard before. The answer (because Jeopardy gives the answer and requires the contestant to give the question) was something along the lines of “this adjective describes a garment that is custom-made”. The correct question was “what is BESPOKE?”

I had never heard the word BESPOKE before. How many of you have? Bespoke is a word that describes a garment that is constructed according to particular specifications. A custom-made suit, for example, could be described as a bespoke suit. It is made for a particular person and according to that person’s measurements. The adjective can also be used to describe the person making the clothes, as in a bespoke tailor—one who can make clothing customized to an individual.

When we made dresses for particular girls at Maasai Girls Rescue Center, we had their exact measurements. The garments we made were bespoke and we were bespoke seamstresses to make them that way. I got to thinking about this new word and how it correlates to some Bible verses about God and his talents in arts

and crafts. Psalm 139 may be a familiar passage but it gives us special insight into our bespoke God. Verse one says *“You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.”* Just as a bespoke tailor takes a customer’s measurements, so God has assessed us and is familiar with every detail of who we are. God knows what our measurements are in every sense.

Verse 5 of the same chapter says *“You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me.”* I like the idea of God hemming my person. A hem is a finishing, a refinement. When God looks at my life, he knows what I need to be complete. He is willing to put the work into me to make my ragged, loose edges look like the perfect image of His Son.

And then, perhaps the most famous verses of Psalm 139 are verses 13 and 14, *“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.”* God has custom-designed and custom-made me. He created me according to His exact measurements in my physical, mental, and emotional features. He placed me into an exact family situation in a precise time and place in history. He surrounds me with exactly the right people and circumstances. He is the bespoke Creator and I am His bespoke creation.

This month, as you sew according to a pattern and specifications of size and measurement, remember the word bespoke. Your sewing creations are going to the exact person God designed them to reach because God knows what that child needs even if we don’t. That is an awesome thought in itself. God can direct the dresses you sew and the shorts you create to get to the child that needs them most.

But even more important, remember that you yourself are bespoke. Created according to God’s measurements to fit into His plan and bring Him glory.