

Thought for the Day 30th September - John Reed

Read Psalm 139

Kate Rubins plans to vote.

Not exactly earth-shattering news, you may think. Particularly in Australia, where we expect everyone to vote, since voting is mandatory.

However, Kate is not in Australia. She is an American. And voting is not compulsory in America. Over the last century, voter turnout at presidential elections has climbed from around 30% to hover somewhere just over 40%. So, in a country where well over 50% of eligible voters don't bother to vote, the fact that Kate plans to vote is significant.

More significant, however, is where she will be at the time. You see, Kate Rubins is an astronaut. She is currently in Russia, preparing to launch into space with two cosmonauts in mid-October for a six-month stay at the International Space Station. And she plans to cast her vote from there – 200 miles (that's a unit of measurement used in ancient history and in America still today) above the earth. She says: "I think it's really important for everybody to vote ... If we can do it from space, then I believe folks can do it from the ground, too."¹

It seems that no one is ever out of reach of the great American voter.

In a similar – but far greater – way, no one is ever out of reach of God.

Verse 8 says: "If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!"

I can't hide from God under my bedcovers, or in my basement, or in the middle of the ocean, or in space.

Some might find this a scary thought. But for David, who wrote this psalm, it is a comforting thing. Because he knows God, and trusts him, he can say in verses 9-10: "If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hands shall lead me, and your right hand shall uphold me."

No matter where you are in the world, or what is happening in your life, God is there. And, if you belong to him, he's not there to criticise and condemn you but to guide and support you. So rather than be afraid, you should be comforted by this psalm.

¹ https://www.huffpost.com/entry/kate-rubins-vote-international-space-station_n_5f6e64aac5b64deddeedb57a